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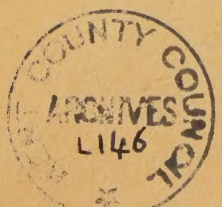

A

NEW AND COMPLETE

HISTORY

OF THE

COUNTY OF KENT;

EMBELLISHED WITH A SERIES OF VIEWS,

From Original Drawings,

BY G. SHEPHERD, H. GASTINEAU, &c. &c.

WITH

HISTORICAL, TOPOGRAPHICAL, CRITICAL, AND BIOGRAPHICAL DELINEATIONS.

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THE

HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF KENT,

&c. &c.

THE HUNDRED OF EYHORNE

LIES at a short distance north-eastward from that of Brenchley and Horsemonden, only a small district of the hundred of Marden, and lath of Scray, intervening.

It is written in Domesday both *Aihorde* and *Haihorne*, but in the reign of Edward I. it bore its present appellation, the king being then lord of the same.

In the survey taken in 1650, by the trustees appointed by parliament, it was returned that the court-leet, with all other courts and liberties within the bailiwic of Eyhorne, and the hundred contained therein, being the court of the said hundreds and bailiwic, was constantly held at Eyhorne green.

THE HUNDRED OF EYHORNE is the largest in this county, and contains within its bounds the parishes of HEDCORNE, *in part;* BOUGHTON MONCHENSIE; LANGLEY; CHART SUTTON; SUTTON VALENCE; EAST SUTTON; ULCOMBE, *in part;* BOUGHTON MALHERBE; LENHAM, *in part;* OTTERDEN; WICHLING; FRINSTED; WORMSELL; HARRIETSHAM; HOLLINGBORNE; BROMFIELD; LEEDS; OTHAM; BERSTED, *in part;* BICKNOR, *in part;* HUCKING; THURNHAM; STOCKBURY, *in part;* and BREDHURST, with the churches of those parishes, and likewise part of the parishes of MARDEN and STAPLEHURST, the churches of which are in other hundreds.

NORTH EASTWARD from the hundred of Brenchley and Horsemonden, (a small space of the hundred of Marden and

lath of Scray only intervening,) lies the parish of Hedcorne, within the bounds of several hundreds; for the hundred of Eyhorne claims over that part of the same wherein the western portion of the village and the church are situated: the hundred of Tenham claims over such part as is within that manor; the hundreds of Barkley and Cranbrooke claim over the southern portion; the former hundred also over such portion as lies within the borough of Stephurst, and the latter over that division which is in the north borough, both portions ranking within the lath of Scray; and the hundred of Calehill claiming over the eastern part of the same.

That portion of the parish which lies eastward of the church of Boughton Malherbe, and thence to the east of that of Hedcorne, and so again eastward to the west head of the church of Smarden, containing all that part within the hundred of Calehill, is in *the eastern division* of this county, and the residue of the parish on the western side of that line ranks in *the division of west Kent.*

The manor of Tenham claims over a considerable part of this parish, and the manor of Ospringe over another portion of the same.

It appeared by the roll of knight's fees, taken in the reign of Edward I. that the archbishop of Canterbury, and the master of the Maison Dieu, at Ospringe, were returned as lords of this parish.

The district is very unpleasantly situated, in a flat and low country, the aspect being dreary and forlorn. The soil is composed of a stiff clay, extremely deep and miry, except in very dry summers, when it becomes particularly hard, and the roads through the same, which are impassable in the winter, from frequent traffic in dry seasons, acquire a smooth glaze and polish like that on earthen pottery. The whole parish is watered by different little streamlets, which spread over it, and join the waters of the Medway, which rise near *Goldwell*, in *Great Chart*, passing along this parish a little to the southward of the village, in their way to Style bridge, and the main river, which they join a little below Yalding.

The village or town of Hedcorne, with the church at the west end, is a dull and unfrequented place, there being also several small hamlets built round the different greens or forstals in the parish.

In the reign of Edward III., Robert Belknap and others were appointed to view all the banks between Hedcorne and Ealdyng, as well as Patyndennesmell, and Elherst, in this county; and to perform what should be requisite concerning them, according to the law and custom of the realm. A new commission of sewers was obtained some years back, to scour and cleanse the branch of the river Medway, from Great Chart through this parish, to its junction with the main river, a little below the town of Yalding. King Henry III. granted to the master and brethren of the Maison Dieu, at Ospringe, founded by him not many years before, the privileges of a market, and a fair to be held in this parish of Hedcorne.

The hundred of Tenham is bound to repair one arch of the bridge, and thirty yards of the causeway lying in that part of the parish, within the hundred.

Mottenden, or more properly *Modinden*, is a manor situated in the northern part of this parish, which, with the estate belonging to it, called Great and Little Mottenden, anciently belonged to the family of Rokesle. Sir Richard of that name, in the year 1224, under Henry III. founded a priory on this manor for friars of the order of the Holy Trinity, being the first house of that fraternity established in England. Their rule was that of St. Austin, added to which were some peculiar constitutions. The habit of the brotherhood was a white gown, with a red and blue cross on the breast. Their revenues were divided, one part for their support and maintenance, another for the relief of the poor, and a third to redeem those Christians taken captives by the infidels. To the priory in question the founder gave this manor, and there were, from time to time, several pardons and indulgencies granted by the succeeding popes to the benefactors of the establishment, which increased both its revenues and reputation.

In the Surrenden library is a deed, showing the tenor of these pardons and indulgencies, and the benefits arising from the weak superstition of different persons, some of whom appear to have been of no mean rank or consequence. Brother Richard, minister of this house of Motynden, certified that many of the Roman pontiffs had endowed the co-brethren and co-sisters of his order with many privileges, especially that they might each select for themselves a confessor who might absolve them from all matters

not reserved to the apostolic see, and once in their lives even from all those likewise. And as John Dering, esq. of Surrenden Dering, had taken on himself this fraternity in the manner of a confriar, and became a benefactor; to comply with the tenor of the apostolic letters, he associated him in his life, as well as in death, together with all their friends, alive and dead, in masses, prayers, and suffrages, of their religion, which deed is dated under the seal of their confraternity, in 1495.

In the reign of Henry III. they procured the grant of a fair to be annually held at this manor; and, under Richard II. the temporalities of this priory were valued at 100 shillings per annum, and continued in this state till the reign of Henry VIII. when all religious houses being suppressed, this fell to the crown. The manor, however, did not long remain in the king's hands, being granted to Thomas lord Cromwell, on whose attainder and execution, for high treason, they again reverted back to the king, where the fee remained till that monarch granted the manor of Motynden, with its appurtenances, to Anthony Aucher, gent. of Swinfield, to hold *in capite* by knight's service. He assigned this estate, in the reign of Edward VI. to Walter Hendley, esq. in trust, who immediately after conveyed it to his son-in-law, Thomas Colepeper, esq. and he passed it away to Christopher Sackville. By the latter this manor was alienated to George Sydenham, esq. and Elizabeth his wife, who possessed it in the reign of Elizabeth. His son, George Sydenham, then vested this estate in trustees, who sold it to one Franklyn, and his son dying, gave it by will to his kinsman, Sir William Sedley, of the Friars, in Aylesford. His son, Sir John, had three heirs, the eldest of whom, Sir Henry and Sir William, dying, this estate devolved to their youngest brother, Sir Charles Sedley, a posthumous son, who became noted for his wit and gallantry in the reign of Charles II. His only daughter, Catherine, was by James II. created countess of Dorchester, and baroness of Darlington for life. She inherited this manor and estate on her father's death, and afterwards carried it in marriage to Sir David Colyear, bart., in 1699, lord Portmore, in Scotland, and in 1703, earl of Portmore, and viscount Milsington. His eldest son, Charles earl of Portmore, in 1732, succeeded him in the title and this estate, and in 1770 he passed away this manor, with the farms of Great and Little Mottenden, to John Sawbridge,

esq. of Ollantigh, in this county, who some years since sold them to Jeremiah Curteis, gent. in whose hands they remained. A court-baron is held for this manor.

Peter Husey, archdeacon of Northampton, by will, in 1499, ordered his body to be buried in the choir of the Holy Trinity convent at Mottenden, where he had caused his tomb to be erected; and it appears that he died in this priory.

KELSHAM is an estate in this parish, lying at a small distance southward from Mottenden, and though now only a farm-house, was once a manor, and the residence of a family known by that surname, their arms being *sable, a fess engrailed argent, between three garbs, or;* as appeared by the figure of one of them, with the above bearings on his tabard, formerly in stained glass, in one of the windows of this church, long since destroyed. In the above name the possession continued till the reign of Elizabeth, when it was conveyed to one Johnson, who sold it to John Stringer, of Triggs, in Goudhurst. He gave this estate by will to his second son, John Stringer, gent. of Ashford, who died possessed of the property in 1679, leaving by Anne Witherden, his wife, an only daughter, Mary, who conveyed it in marriage to her husband, Anthony Irby, esq. He sold it in 1706 to George Charlton, esq. of Boxley, who left issue ten children, when John, the second son, inherited this estate by his father's will. He died unmarried in 1770, and devised this manor to his nephew, the Rev. George Burvill, rector of Leyborne, in this county. Mr. John Burden, however, only son of Charlotte, another of Mr. Charlton's sisters, claiming a moiety of this estate, on a trial in 1772, a verdict was given in his favor; soon after which he disposed of the whole of his interest in this property to the Rev. Mr. Burvill above mentioned, who resided at Boxley, and became possessor of the whole of this estate.

KENT'S CHANTRY, now called the *Chantry Farm,* acquired the former of those names from a chantry having been founded there by one John Kent, in the reign of Edward IV. who endowed it with a handsome income to support the officiating priest. It was suppressed in the reign of Henry VIII. and the site granted to Thomas lord Cromwell, who soon after exchanged it with the king for other premises.

It continued vested in the crown till the 36th year of that reign, when Henry VIII. granted the site of this suppressed

chantry, with several lands belonging to the same, in Hedcorne and elsewhere, to Sir Anthony St. Leger and his heirs male, to hold *in capite* by knight's service; and under Edward VI. he obtained a fresh grant to him and his heirs, by the same service. He was lord deputy of Ireland, knight of the garter, and of the privy council, and died in 1559. His eldest son, Warham St. Leger, sold this property, about the middle of the reign of Elizabeth, to Thomas Colepeper, esq. who alienated it to Michael Beresford, of Westerham; and he settled it on his daughter, Anne, married to Sir William Southland, of Lee, in Ickham. Their son, Thomas Southland, esq. alienated it to Mr. William Belcher, rector of that parish, who died in 1739, and by Sarah, his wife, daughter of Justinian Champneys, esq. of Boxley, left four daughters his coheirs; Catherine, married to Benjamin Bayley, esq. of Ireland; Judith, since deceased; Elizabeth; and Sarah, married to the Rev. Joseph Milner, of Aylesford, in this county. They possessed this estate in undivided shares, in the sale of which they afterwards joined to Mr. John Boreman, of this parish, who became entitled to the entire fee thereof.

Rishfords, usually called Rushfords, is a manor in this parish, which anciently conferred the name upon a family that possessed it. One of that line, Adam de Rishford, held this manor, in the reign of Edward II., of the master of the Maison Dieu, in Ospringe; but the name became extinct here before the 20th year of Edward III., when John, son of John de Peende, held it of the said master, and paid respective aid for the same. This manor continued in his descendants till Stephen Peende, otherwise De la Pynde, and Martha his wife, in 1611, conveyed it to Christopher Fullagar, or Domine, who, in the reign of Charles I. conveyed it to Mr. John Hulkes, of Newnham; from whom it descended to Mr. Nathaniel Hulse, gent. of Acrise. He, in 1772, conveyed this manor to Mr. John Goldsmith, surgeon, of Chatham, when it passed to the Wade's; and, in 1783, became vested in Captain John Wade, in whose possession it remained.

Southolmenden is a manor in this parish, the name whereof is mentioned in a charter of Offa, king of Mercia, dated 791, whereby he gave, among other premises, Suthelmingden to Christ church, in Canterbury. In the 2d year of Edward IV., Thomas Whytingbroke, of Hedcorne, gave, by will, his capital

messuage and lands, lying in Sowtholmynden, to his son, John; and in later times; it has for several generations been possessed by the family of the Austen's. In that line it continued till Elizabeth, daughter of Peter Austen, of Marden, carried it in marriage to William Gammon, of Wrotham, whose son, the Rev. Austen Gammon, of Watringburg, in this county, afterwards possessed it. A court-baron is held for this manor.

Blechenden, otherwise Cruttenden, is a manor in this district, once constituting part of the ancient possessions of the eminent family of the Colepeper's, seated at Aylesford, of whom William Colepeper was created a baronet, in 1627. In his descendants it continued down to Sir Thomas Colepeper, bart., of Preston Hall, who died in 1723, leaving Alicia his sister, then widow of Sir Thomas Taylor, bart., of Maidstone, his heir, who passed it away to Mr. Thomas Best, of Chatham. His grandson, Thomas Best, esq. of Chilston, dying in 1795, gave it by will to his nephew, George Best, esq. of Chilston.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

The Manors of Wisperhawke, or *Whitsperhawke*, and Hampden, in this parish, were formerly possessed by a family of the first of those names; one of whom, Simon Whytsphawk, owned them under Edward IV. They afterwards passed into the name of Hennand, and descended down to Thomas Hennand, whose heir at law conveyed them by sale to Galfridus Mann, esq., who died possessed of them, together with *Hedcorne place*, in 1756, when his only son, Sir Horace Mann, bart., inherited after him.

Hedcorne is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Charing. The church is dedicated to Sts. Peter and Paul, and was founded by one of the family of the Colepeper's, owners of considerable property in this parish. The monument and arms of the founder still remain in the south wall, the latter being carved in stone, over the west door of the belfry; one of the shields having a crescent on the upper part of the *bend*. There are also two coats of Kelsham, one impaling *Ermine on a chief gules, two mullets, or; the other, sable, a chevron between three tents, argent, and a coat having a chevron between three garbs, and three cross crosslets fitchee, one and two.*

The church of Hedcorne was part of the possessions of the

crown, and so remained till Henry III. granted the parsonage or rectory to his new erected Maison Dieu, at Ospringe; and the advowson of the vicarage, to the archbishop of Canterbury and his successors.

In 1267, Friar Elyas, master of this hospital, agreed that Archbishop Boniface, patron of the church, by the grant of the prince, their founder, should allow over and above the income of the vicarage, which William de Tilemanstone then had, the sum of 100s. out of the gross fruits of the same, to be paid without any diminution whatsoever.

The parsonage of the church, with the *Manor of Hedcorne,* remained part of the possessions of the Maison Dieu till its dissolution, under Edward IV., when devolving to the crown, it was granted, with all its lands and revenues, to St. John's college, Cambridge, where it continues.

In the 8th year of Richard II. the parsonage of Hedcorne was valued at £13 6 8.

The advowson of the vicarage still remained part of the possessions of his grace of Canterbury. It was a discharged living in the king's books, of the yearly value of £45, the annual tenths being £1 11 4. In 1640 the estimate was £50 per annum, there being 400 communicants.

In 1821 there were 184 dwellings in the parish of Hedcorne; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 622, females 569, making a total of 1191 souls.

Boughton Monchensie is the next parish northward from Hedcorne, written in Domesday *Boltone,* in later records *Bocton,* and sometimes *West Bocton;* but now generally *Boughton.* It also received the addition of *Monchensie,* or *Monchelsea,* from a family of that name, ancient possessors of this property; as well as to distinguish it from the other parishes of the same name within this county. It is also sometimes called in the neighbourhood Boughton Quarry, from the large quantities of stone in its vicinity.

This parish lies upon the lower or southern ridge, commonly called the quarry hills, which cross it, the summit of the same being the northern boundary of the Weald. The church stands

about half way down the hill, southward ; and near the cemetery, is the ancient mansion of Boughton place, pleasantly situated, having an extensive prospect, southward, over the Weald ; the park being well wooded and watered. Hence the parish extends into the Weald, towards that branch of the Medway that flows from Hedcorne towards Style bridge and Yalding, over a low deep country. Northward from Boughton place, above the hill, the parish extends over Coxsheath, part of which is within its bounds; on the farther side is a hamlet, called Boughton Green; and beyond, the seat of Boughton Mount, the grounds of which are watered by the stream that rises near Langley park, and losing itself under ground, again appears in the quarries, and flowing on through Lose, to which this parish joins, unites with the Medway, a little above Maidstone. These large and noted quarries, known by the name of the Boughton Quarries, consist of the Kentish ragstone, of which the soil of this parish abounds throughout, being covered over by a fertile loam of no great depth. At the end of Coxsheath, eastward, is the hamlet of Cock Street, usually called, from a public-house there, Boughton Cock ; a little to the southward of which, at the edge of the heath, is the parsonage, with some coppice wood adjoining ; and, on the brow of the hill, on the eastern bounds of the parish, is the seat of Wharton, which commands an extensive prospect over the Weald.

This parish was part of those possessions given by William the Conqueror to his half brother, Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday. On the disgrace of that prelate, all his possessions being confiscated to the crown, this manor passed into the possession of the family of Montchensie, called in Latin records *De Monte Canisio,* the principal seat of which was at Swanscombe, in this county. William, son of William de Monchensie, who died in the reign of King John, was possessed of this manor, who survived his father but a short time, as Warine de Monchensie, probably his uncle, succeeded to this inheritance in the 15th year of that reign. Soon after the above period, this manor passed into the possession of the family of the Hougham's, of Hougham, in this county.

Robert de Hougham died at this manor in the 41st of Henry III. as did his descendant, in that of Edward II. without male issue,

leaving a daughter, Benedicta, who carried it in marriage to John de Shelving, of Shelvingbourne, who died in the reign of Edward III. He left his wife surviving, who, in the same reign, paid respective aid for this manor, which the heirs of Robert de Hougham then held at West Bocton, of Hugh de Vere, when she dying in the 22d year of that reign, this name expired in two daughters and coheirs, one of whom, Helen, married John de Bourne, and the other John Brampton, otherwise Detling, of Detlington Court, who entitled their husbands to their respective rights in this manor.

Robert Bourne died possessed of *one part* of this property in the reign of Edward III., which his daughter and heir carried in marriage to Edward Haut, of Hauts Place, in Petham; who possessed it in the 8th year of Henry IV., in which year he was sheriff. His descendant alienated this estate, previous to the end of the reign of Henry VI., to Reginald Peckham, esq. who then owned it, as appears by an old court roll of that period.

The other, and by far the largest portion of this manor, on the death of John Brampton, or Detling, descended to his daughter, Benedicta, who conveyed it in marriage to Thomas at Towne, of Townes Place, in Throwley; and he dying also without issue male, left his three daughters his coheirs; one of whom, Benedicta, the second, carried this part in marriage to William Watton, esq. of Addington. He, at the latter end of the reign of Henry VI. conveyed the estate by sale to Reginald Peckham, esq. above mentioned, who possessed the other moiety of this manor. His grandson died in the reign of Henry VIII. and devised it to his daughter, who carried it in marriage to a Harpur; from whom it passed to Sir Thomas Wyatt, and afterwards to Robert Rudston, esq. In the reign of Edward VI., he procured his lands in this county to be *disgavelled*, but having been engaged with Sir Thomas Wyatt in the unfortunate rebellion, in the 1st year of Queen Mary, he was, with many others, found guilty, and condemned to be executed, which sentence the queen respited. In the 1st year of Elizabeth, he was, by Act, restored in blood, and also to his possessions, when he resided at this manor, to the mansion of which he made considerable additions. Isaac, his eldest son, succeeded, and left an only daughter, married to Samuel Michel, esq. of Old Windsor; on which it passed, by the entail of his father's will, to Belknap

Rudston, esq. his brother, who devised it by will, in 1613, to Sir Francis Barnham, of Hollingborne.

Sir Francis resided at Hollingborne, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Sampson Lennard, esq. of Chevening, sister of Henry lord Dacre, by whom he had sixteen children. Robert, the second, but eldest surviving son, was seated at Boughton Monchensie, and created a baronet in 1663. He was succeeded in title and estate by Sir Robert Barnham, bart. his grandson, who died during his father's lifetime, in 1668, leaving an only daughter and heir, Philadelphia, who conveyed this manor in marriage to Thomas Rider, esq. whose eldest son, Sir Barnham, succeeded his father in this manor, and resided here. He died in 1728, and his only son, Sir Thomas, possessed this estate, where he kept his shrievalty in 1754, and died unmarried in 1786, upon which it devolved by will to his first cousin, Ingram Rider, the last possessor of this estate.

Wiarton House is a seat in the eastern part of this parish, which anciently gave name and residence to a family that possessed this property. Adam de Wiarton held it in the reign of Henry III. whose descendants continued owners until the latter end of the reign of Richard II. when it was alienated to Robert Purse, whose son of that name died possessed of the same in 1452, and was buried in this church, having been a benefactor to the same, by rebuilding the belfry and north aisle. His portrait, in stained glass, was in the window, over the place of his interment, which remained entire till the civil wars under Charles I. when it was broken in pieces, with the exception of one hand, holding out a purse, in allusion to his name. His son alienated this manor to Richard Norton, whose wife, Margaret, dying in 1507, lies interred under the seat, in this church, belonging to Wiarton house. In that name it continued till the reign of James I. when it was sold to Sir Anthony St. Leger, master of the rolls, in Ireland, and privy counsellor; who left an only son, Sir Anthony, who succeeded him in this manor. At his death his heirs alienated the estate to Nathaniel Powell, esq. of Ewhurst, in Sussex, when it descended regularly through this family to Sir Christopher Powell, bart. who resided at Wiarton, and in 1734 was elected knight of the shire for this county. He died possessed of it in 1742, leaving his widow surviving, whose trustees sold this estate, after her death, pursuant

to Sir Christopher's will, to Mr. John Briscoe, of London, who rebuilt the mansion on the brow of the hill, at a small distance southward of the former site, and then sold it to Wiltshire Emmett, esq. who served the office of sheriff in 1774, and resided there. After living at this manor for some years, he alienated the seat, with the estate belonging to John May, esq. of Holborough, in Snodland, who was the last owner.

The borough of Wiarton is within the manor of Newington, near Sittingbourne; the rents due to which are from the freeholders holding within it, *in free socage tenure.*

Holbrook is a reputed manor here, which formerly belonged to a family of the name of Halbrook, as appears by several old deeds and court rolls; and bore, as is evident from many old registers of arms, *Azure, a plain cross, between four mullets, or, frettee of the first.* They continued owners for several descents, and became extinct about the commencement of the reign of Henry V. when the property devolved to the possession of William Haut, esq. of Bishopsborne, whose descendant, Sir William, in the reign of Henry VIII. left two daughters and coheirs. Jane, the youngest, married Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington castle, who in her right possessed it. At the latter end of the reign of Edward VI. it was, with her consent, alienated to Simon Smyth, of Buckland, near Maidstone, in whose descendants it continued down to John Smyth, whose widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Smyth, afterwards possessed this manor.

Boughton Mount, formerly called *Wychden,* is a seat in this parish, situated on the opposite, or northern side of Coxsheath, near the parish of Loose.

This seat, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was the property of John Alchorne, of Aylesford, grandson of John de Alchorne, of Ulchorne, in Uckfield, Sussex. In the descendants of John Alchorne, the purchaser of this seat, it continued down to his grandson of the same name, who, leaving an only daughter, she carried this estate in marriage to John Savage, gent. of Lyons Inn. He was descended from the Savage's, of Blexworth, in Dorsetshire, a branch of those of Rock Savage, in Cheshire. He had by her two sons, Richard, who died on his travels, at Prague, in Bohemia, in 1669, and John, who succeeded to this estate in 1726, having been appointed sheriff of the county, but dying, was succeeded by his son, Richard Savage, esq. His

widow surviving, and dying in 1780, this seat, according to her husband's will, became the property of the two daughters and coheirs of his late sister, married to Benjamin Hubble, esq. of Town Malling, one of whom married Mr. Dance, but it was afterwards occupied by E. J. Foote, esq. of the Royal Navy.

Boughton Monchensie is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. The church, dedicated to St. Peter, is a small building, with a handsome square tower at the west end. It was given to the priory of Leeds, soon after its foundation, by Henry de Bocton, and was afterwards appropriated to that establishment, with the licence of the archbishop, before the reign of Richard II. at which time the parsonage was valued at £10, and the vicarage at £4, yearly income, both which remained part of the possessions of the priory till the dissolution, in the reign of Henry VIII. By that monarch both the parsonage and advowson of the church of Bocton were settled on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester.

On the abolition of deans and chapters, after the death of Charles I., this parsonage was surveyed by order of the state, in 1649, when it was returned, that it consisted of the site which, with the tithes, was worth £56 3 4, and that the glebe land of twenty-nine acres and two roods was worth £8 16 8 per annum, both improved rents; which premises had been let, under Charles I., to Sir Edward Hales, knight and bart., by the dean and chapter, for twenty-one years, at the yearly rental of £13 10s.

The vicarage was valued in the king's books at £7 13 4, the yearly tenths being 15s. 4d. per annum; and in 1640 the estimate was £60, and the communicants 177. In 1649 it was surveyed, with the parsonage, by order of the state, and valued at £30 per annum clear yearly income.

The vicar of this church, in 1584, was deprived of this living for nonconformity, but he was so acceptable to his parishioners, that they, to the number of fifty-seven, signed a petition to the lord treasurer, to have their minister restored to them.

In 1821, there were 139 dwellings in the parish of Boughton Monchensie; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers

of inhabitants were as follow : males 411, females 417, making a total of 828 souls.

Langley is the next parish north-eastward from Boughton Monchensie, written in Domesday *Languelie*, which signifies the *long pasture*, a name well adapted to the district at this period. This parish is small, lying on high ground, the soil being red, mixed with flint, and by no means fertile. It is woody towards the east and west, the former extending into the large tract of woodland called Kingswood, where the number of stately oak and elm trees interspersed throughout, give it rather a gloomy appearance. Midway between these woods is the village of Langley, with the church, and at a short distance, adjoining Kingswood, is Langley heath, a waste of no great extent. About a quarter of a mile north-westward from the village, is the estate called Langley park, which has lost the name of park, being entirely dismantled, as will be further noticed. Near this part of the parish rises a small spring, which, at one mile distance from its source, loses itself under ground at Brishing for nearly half a mile, and then rising again, runs through Loose, and joins the Medway just above Maidstone. Kilburne says that, in 1472, a spring or bourn rose in the park, where, he adds, there was a pit in Langley park, which, before any battle, would be dry, but if their was no hostile encounter near, it would be full of water in the driest summer.

Langley was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday. Upon the disgrace of that prelate it became confiscated to the crown, and in the reign of Henry III. was become the property of a family named Ashway. William so called, held it, as appears by the Testa de Nevil, in the 20th year of that reign, and paid aid for it at the marriage of Isabel, the king's sister. It soon after passed to the family of the Leyborne's, as Roger of that name died possessed of the property of Langley in the 56th year of the same prince, after which it descended to Juliana de Leyborne, whose last husband was Sir William de Clinton, earl of Huntingdon, who in the reign of Edward III. had license granted to enlarge this park with two hundred acres of land, and held this manor in her right, in the 20th year of the same reign, when he paid aid for it as half a

knight's fee, in Langele, held of the countess of Albemarle. Juliana, as before mentioned in several parts of this history, had no issue by either of her husbands, whom she survived, when, dying without any heirs, this estate became escheated to the crown.

The manor of Langley remained vested in the crown till the reign of Richard II. when it devolved to John duke of Lancaster, and other feoffees, in trust for the performance of certain religious bequests, devised in the last will of Edward III. who had by letters patent signed in his palace at Westminster, endowed and completed the chapel which had been began by King Stephen; and made it collegiate, to consist of a dean and canons, and other ministers, to whom he granted the right of receiving at his treasury a sum sufficient to supply them with necessaries, until he should give them as much lands and rents as amounted to £500 yearly income; this he bound himself and his heirs, kings of this realm, to perform; to which he likewise, by his last will, enjoined the duke of Lancaster, and others of his feoffees.

They, in conformity with the will of the king, purchased of the crown, in the reign of Richard II., this manor of Langley, among others, and in the 5th year of that monarch demised it to the dean and canons, to the intent, that they being in the actual possession thereof, the king might grant it to them in mortmain for ever. After a few years, the king, through some false representations, made by Sir Simon de Burley, granted this property to him, dispossessing the dean and canons of the same, but forfeiting his interest at his death. Richard II. by letters patent, in his 12th year, through the petition of the dean and canons, granted to them the rents and profits of this manor, among others, as a sufficient endowment, until he should otherwise alter it, or provide for them.

This manor continued thus situated till the 1st year of the reign of Edward VI. when by an Act for the surrender of all free chapels and chantries, this, among others, was soon afterwards dissolved, and the lands and possessions given to the crown. The park, however, which in the reign of Edward III. was in the possession of William de Clinton, and his lady Juliana, seems after her death, not to have been granted with the manor to the college, but remained in the hands of the crown, since we find

that King Richard II., in his 11th year, granted the custody of this park, then in his hands, to William, archbishop of Canterbury; and it also appears, from the patent rolls in the tower, in the 27th of King Henry VI., to have been then granted to Thomas Kent, and Isabella his wife; while, in the 2d year of Henry VIII., Henry earl of Guildford had a grant for life of the rangership of this park; however, when Lambarde wrote his "Perambulations," about the year 1570, no park was in existence.

Shortly after the above period this manor was granted to St. Leger, from which name it was alienated to Lewin Bufkin, of Sussex, who obtained of Queen Elizabeth new letters patent, to hold this property in *free socage* of the queen as of her manor of East Greenwich. His descendant, of the same name, alienated it under James I. to Nathaniel Powell, of Ewhurst, in Sussex, who sold it to Sir Edward Hales, knight and baronet, and his grandson, Sir Edward, vested it in trustees, who, about the year 1760, sold it to Sir William Drake, of Amersham, in Bucks. The trustees of the grandson of the latter, Montague Gerard Drake, during his infancy, in the 5th of Queen Anne, procured an Act to sell this manor, with Sutton Valence, and other estates in this neighbourhood, in pursuance of which they conveyed it by sale about the year 1708 to Sir Christopher Desbouverie, of London. He died possessed of the property in 1733, leaving two sons, Freeman and John, who both died, and two daughters, Anne, married to John Hervey, esq. and Elizabeth. On the death of the two sons, each of whom possessed this manor in succession, it devolved in 1750 to the two sisters, and on the division of this inheritance, in 1752, it was allotted to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, the youngest, afterwards of Teston, who remained owner of the same.

Brising, generally called Brishing, is a manor in this parish, which had anciently owners of the same name.

Thomas de Brissinges held it at the commencement of the reign of Edward I. as half a knight's fee of William de Leyburne, as did also his descendant Sarah de Brissinges, in the 20th of Edward III. who then paid aid for it. Upon the extinction of that family this estate went to the Astry's, originally of Bedfordshire, Sir Ralph, son of Geoffry, having held this manor in the reign of Edward IV. as did his descendant John, who died

holding it under Henry VIII. when it was ascertained to have been held of that of Langley, lying within the fee of the duchy of Lancaster.

Soon afterwards it was alienated to Ralph Bufkin, esq. whose descendant, Lewin, sold it, in the reign of James I., to Nathaniel Powel, of Ewehurst, in Sussex, who reconveyed it to the same family in the person of Lewin Bufkin, the direct descendant of the above-mentioned Lewin. It continued in that name till it passed to Ralph, who dying without issue male, it descended to John Martin, esq. of Stanmer, in Sussex, as his heir at law. His son, Denny Martin, of Salts, in Loose, married Frances, one of the daughters of Thomas lord Fairfax, by whom he had five sons and three daughters. His widow surviving, died possessed of the property in 1791, upon which it went to their eldest son, the Rev. Denny Martin Fairfax, of Leeds castle, since deceased. A court-baron is held for this manor.

Langley is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. There are no parochial charities. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, has always been an appendage to the manor, and was in the patronage of Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie.

It is a rectory, valued in the king's books at £6 19 9½, the yearly tenths being 13s. 11¾d. In 1640 the value was £100 per annum, communicants fifty-five.

The parsonage house was entirely rebuilt in the year 1767, by the then rector, Mr. Waterhouse, who was also a benefactor to the church, as well as Mrs. Bouverie, the patron.

In 1821, there were thirty-nine dwellings in the parish of Langley; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 143, females 120, making a total of 263 souls.

The next parish southward from Langley is Chart Sutton, or more appropriately *Chart by Sutton*, written in Domesday *Certh.*

It is very small, and the lower, or southern ridge of quarry hills, divide the upper from the lower part, the latter being in the district of the Weald, where the country is low and flat, abounding with broad hedge-rows, filled with large and spreading oaks.

This district is extremely wet in the winter, and the soil a deep stiff clay. At the foot of the hill rises a stream, which, turning a mill, flows thence southward across this parish, till it joins the branch of the Medway, just above Herefeed bridge. The soil on the hill consists of the quarry stone, thinly covered with a loam, which is extremely fertile in the produce of corn, fruit, and hops. Just above the summit of the hill is the village and church, with Chart place adjoining the churchyard; beyond which, northward, the soil becomes less fertile, being a red earth, mixed with flint, and so continues till it joins Langley parish.

Mention is made, in Domesday record, of three arpends of vineyard in this parish, which is certainly one out of many instances of their having been vineyards in this county in very early times. We mean plantations of the grape-vine, for we can by no means acquiesce that *Vineæ* universally meant plantations of apples and pears, at least so far as relates to this county, where the latter were not introduced at the time, nor for a long period after the taking the survey of Domesday. This opinion is further confirmed from the following circumstance, that Hamo, bishop of Rochester, who, when Edward II. in his 19th year, was at Bokinfold, in this county, sent that prince a gift, both of wine and grapes, from his vineyard at Halling, near Rochester, the episcopal palace, where he then resided. These vineyards being likewise measured by the arpend, the same measure as that used in France, proves that when the vine was brought from that country and cultivated here, the appellation was continued, being an admeasurement, completely different from that of any other kind of land.

Sir Robert Atkins, in his History of Gloucestershire, has indeed given two instances, from records in the reigns of John and Edward II., tending to prove the contrary, which might well accord with the language of his countrymen, and the bleak county of Gloucester, in which district the grape-vine had never been seen, the only beverage being that produced from apples and pears, which the inhabitants chose to dignify with the appellation of wine. The certainty is still in memory, of two exceedingly fine vineyards in this county, one at Tunbridge Castle, and the other at Hall Place, in Barming, near Maidstone, from which large quantities of very fine flavored wine were produced. The

parish of Chart, among others in the same situation, on the side of the quarry hills, is peculiarly adapted for the planting of vines, as well from the warm and nutritive quality of the soil, as its genial aspect, being entirely sheltered from the north-east, and facing the south on the declivity of the hill.

Chart was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered. Upon his disgrace, this estate became the property of Baldwin de Betun, earl of Albermarle, and also lord of the manor of Sutton Valence, to which this estate seems to have been an appendage, and continued with it in the same succession down to Sir Christopher Desbouverie. He, on gaining possession of the property, in 1708, built for himself a mansion, where he resided, and died in 1733, leaving two sons, who left no issue; and two daughters, who became their brothers' heirs; when, upon a division of their inheritance, in 1752, this manor was allotted to the youngest, Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Teston, who continued owner of the same.

Norton Place is an ancient manor and mansion in this parish, though for many years since made use of only as a farm-house. It is situated about half a mile, northward, from Chart Place, and was once the property and residence of a family named Norton. In the south windows of this church, there were formerly the effigies of Stephen Norton, who lived in the reign of Richard II., his arms being *Argent, a chevron between three crescents azure;* and Philipott says, that he found, in a tournament of the Kentish gentlemen, one of this name, in a tabard, of the arms above mentioned, encountering one Christmas, of East Sutton, who was also habited in a surcoat, charged with his arms, expressive of his name, viz. *Gules, upon a bend, sable, three wassail bowls, or;* which bearing was also in the south window of Sutton church.

But the partitions inherent to *gavelkind,* so diminished the patrimony of this family, that in the reign of Elizabeth, they were obliged to sell several parts at different periods, all of which fell at length into the possession of Sir Edward Hales, bart., whose grandson and heir, in 1660, purchased of the two coheirs of the family of Norton, (married to Denne, and Underwood,) the seat itself, with the remainder of the land belonging to the same, by a fine levied by them and their husbands for that pur-

pose. His trustees, about the year 1670, conveyed it, with the manor of Sutton Valence and Chart, to Sir William Drake, of Amersham, in Bucks; with which it was sold, about the year 1708, to Sir Christopher Desbouverie, whose daughter, Mrs. Bouverie, of Teston, after the death of her two brothers, jointly inherited with her sister.

Walter's Folly, in the *Den of Ivetigh*, now called the *Folly*, is an estate, situated in the southern part of this parish, about a mile below the summit of the hill. It was anciently the property of the family of Ivetigh, originally spelt Evythye, and gave name to this manor. In the reign of Henry VI., it was alienated by one of that name to Robert Mascall, who died possessed of the property under Edward IV. He, in the above reign, devised 6s. 8d. towards the pavement of the church, and to the leading the roof, 20s. His son, Thomas, resided here, and some years after his father's death, sold it to William Lambe, who changed its name to that of Lambden; and in his descendants it continued, till sold to one Perry, when Mr. James Perry dying in the reign of Charles I., his three daughters became entitled to this estate. They joined in the sale of the property to one Walter, from whom it gained the appellation of *Walter's Folly*. In the reign of Queen Anne, it was purchased by Sir Samuel Ongley, of London, who gave it by will to his nephew, Samuel Ongley, esq., of Old Warden, in Bedfordshire, in tail; on whose death this estate came, by the above entail, to his nephew, Robert Henley, esq., who took the name of Ongley, and was, in 1776, created baron Ongley of Ireland; he died in 1785, and was succeeded in this property by his son, Robert lord Ongley.

Almnery Green, usually called *Almery Green*, is a place in the western part of this parish, where there is an estate called *Haddis tenement*, otherwise Almery, which was, for many generations, the residence of the family of the Hadde's, called in ancient records Le Hadde. Robert lived here in the reign of Henry III., as did his son, William, in the reign of Edward III; this family divided into two branches, of which, Robert, the eldest son and heir, settled at Frinsted, where his descendants remained for many generations; the youngest inherited this estate at Chart, which rested with his descendants till Thomas Haddys, in the reign of Henry VII., leaving two daughters

coheirs; Margaret, married, first, William Wright, and afterwards Nicholas Harpur; and Catherine, who married Thomas Bidlake, of Devonshire; when this house, and estate in Chart, became the property of the eldest daughter, Margaret, who entitled her husband, William Wright, to the same. He, under Henry VII., conveyed it to Roger Merys, of Leeds; and after some intermediate owners, it devolved to the possession of Robert Baker. The latter, in 1612, sold it to Sir Edward Hales, bart., the trustees of whose grandson, Sir Edward, sold it, with the manor of Valence Sutton, and his other estates in this parish, to Sir William Drake, of Amersham, with which they were sold to Sir Christopher Desbouverie. On a division of this property between his two daughters, these premises were allotted, with other lands, to Anne, the eldest, married to John Hervey, esq. who died possessed of them in 1757; and his grandson, Christopher Hervey, esq., was afterwards entitled to the same.

There is an estate on Almnery Green, which was formerly part of the possessions of the priory of Leeds, and no doubt belonged to the Almnery of that house, and, in all probability, conferred its name to this place. It remained thus situated till the reign of Henry VIII. when the priory being dissolved, this estate went, with the rest of its possessions, into the king's hands, and was settled by him on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester, the members of which, in consequence, became its possessors.

Lested is an ancient seat, situated on the northern side of the high road leading from Coxheath to Langley heath, near Chart Corner.

It was formerly part of the possessions of the family of the Potman's, and continued in that line till Sir Richard Potman sold it to Simon Smyth, gent. who resided at Buckland, in Maidstone. His son, Simon, was of Boughton Monchensie, and had the arms of his family confirmed to him by Camden Clarencieux, in 1650. He left a son, Simon, of Lested, whose widow afterwards remarried George Curties, esq., sheriff of this county in 1651, who resided here in her right.

In the descendants of Simon Smyth this estate passed to the Rev. John Smyth, vicar of this parish, and rector of Hastinleigh, who died in 1732, and was succeeded by his son, John Smyth, esq., whose widow survived him. By her he left four daughters;

and they or their respective heirs were afterwards entitled to the same.

Cheney's Court is a reputed manor in this district, which appears, in very early times, to have been called Hadenesham, and to have been in the possession of Sir Robert de Shurland, a man of great eminence in the reign of Edward I. He left an only daughter and heir, who carried this, with other large estates, in marriage to William de Cheney, of Patricksborne; in whose descendants it continued so long, that the place was named after them. At length Sir Thomas Cheney passed it away to John Iden, who died possessed of this property in the reign of Henry VIII., and one of his descendants leaving two daughters and coheirs, one married a gentleman of the name of Browne, and the other Mr. Barton; when the latter possessed this estate in right of his wife. It was shortly after alienated to a Heyward, as we find that Rowland Heyward had the queen's licence to alienate the messuage and manor, called Cheyne Court, to John Long, of Tunbridge; after which it passed to a Wolett; and thence to a Jordan; and afterwards to that branch of the family of Fane who were earls of Westmoreland. In that name it continued till John earl of Westmoreland dying in 1762, this, among his other estates, was, by his will, passed to the Right Hon. Thomas lord le Despencer, who remained possessed of this property.

There is the appearance of an old manor pound belonging to this estate, but no court has been held here within memory.

The family of Spencer once possessed *an estate* in this parish, and resided here for some generations; one of whom, John Spencer, esq. was of Chart Sutton, and bore for his arms *Argent, a fess, engrailed, in chief, three lions rampant, gules,* at the close of the reign of Henry VIII., as did also his son. He left two heirs, John and Nicholas; and five daughters; who, on the death of their elder brother, became coheirs, and, in the reign of Charles I., joined with their respective husbands in the sale of their inheritance to Sir Edward Hales. It subsequently passed to Sir William Drake; and thence to Sir Christopher Desbouverie, in whose descendants it has continued in the same manner as the rest of his estates in this parish.

Chart Sutton is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. The

church, which stands near the summit of the hill, at a very small distance from Sutton Valence, is dedicated to St. Michael. This structure has been twice set on fire by lightning; the first time, some years back, when it was fortunately extinguished; and the last time, on the 23d of April, 1779, about seven o'clock in the morning, when, in a dreadful storm, the lightning fell upon the beautiful spire steeple, and in three hours burnt that and the whole fabric to ashes, with the exception of the bare walls. Since which, it has been rebuilt, from a plan of Mr. Henry Holland, architect, at the cost of £1,300, which sum was collected by a brief throughout the county, from house to house, and a liberal contribution made by the neighbouring gentry and clergy.

The church of Chart was given to the priory of Leeds soon after its foundation, the tithes of every kind arising from the demesnes of the lord of the parish of Chart, and also 20s. annual pension from the church, to be paid by the hands of the rector for ever, for the maintenance of the infirmary of the priory, being assigned and granted by Archbishop Richard to the canons of that establishment.

In the year 1320, Walter, archbishop of Canterbury, appropriated this church to the priory, and then admitted William de Shoreham to the vicarage of the church; at which time he by a legal instrument, endowed the vicarage of the same as follows: first, he ordained and decreed that every vicar, for the time being, should receive all oblations and obits accruing to the altar of the church, which the rectors were accustomed to receive. And he further decreed, that the prior and convent should assign, of the soil of the church, one acre and a half of land, lying conveniently for a dwelling-house, for the vicar; and should build for him thereon a convenient house to reside in; and that they should pay to him and his successors, as an augmentation of his living, 40s. sterling yearly.

On the dissolution of the priory of Leeds, in the reign of Henry VIII., this parsonage, with the advowson of the vicarage, devolved to the crown, and was, by that monarch, settled on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester, where it remained.

The vicarage was valued in the king's books at £8 12 8, the yearly tenths being 17s. 3½d. It was afterwards of the

clear yearly value of £47 11 9½; and in 1640 the estimate was £30 per annum, communicants 212.

The Rev. John Smyth, vicar, gave by will, in 1732, £200 as an augmentation, to enable it to receive the benefit of the like sum from Queen Anne's bounty; with which sum a small farm of £20 per annum, in Ashford parish, was purchased for the benefit of the vicar and his successors.

In 1821 there were sixty-four dwellings in the parish of Chart Sutton; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 251, females 249, making a total of 500 souls.

Town Sutton, otherwise Sutton Valence, is the next parish, eastward, from Chart Sutton, having received the name of Valence from that eminent family, the members of which were long owners of this district; also called *Town Sutton*, from the largeness of the village or town when compared with those of the adjoining parishes of the same name.

The parish of Town Sutton is situated much like that of Chart Sutton, the soil being the same. The village is poor and mean, placed a little below the summit of the quarry hill, having the church at the west end. The manor house stands on the green, adjoining the cemetery, commanding an extensive view over the country, southward. The road from Chart to East Sutton traverses this village, and another route crosses it from Langley, down the hill into the Weald. At a small distance below the village, is Sutton Place and the parsonage; and beneath the foot of the hill, the little manor of Forsham, formerly the estate of the Austen's, baronets; beyond which this parish extends, southward, across a low flat country, deep, wet, and miry, till it joins that of Hedcorne. Above the village it meets Kingswood, part of which is within this district.

On the brow of the hill, at a small distance, eastward, from the village, and near the parsonage yard, stand the venerable ruins of Sutton castle, now almost overgrown with ivy and the branches of trees, which sprout out through its mouldering walls. What remains appears to have been the keep, or dungeon of this fortress, two separate rooms of which are still in being;

and, by the cavities where the joists have been laid into the walls, seem to have been at least a story higher than they appear at present. The remains of the walls are more than three feet in thickness, and about twenty feet high, having loopholes for arrows at proper distances. They are composed of the quarry stone and flint mixed, with some few thin bricks interspersed. The whole appears to have been extremely strong, though of very rude workmanship, and was, apparently, built in the time of the barons' wars, most probably by one of the family of the Valence's, earls of Pembroke; while the church and its demesnes yet remained as appendages to their manor of Sutton Valence, constituting a portion of their vast possessions. It commands a most extensive view over the adjacent country, and was, most probably, used as a place of defence for the partizans of the lords of this estate to make their excursions from, and serve as a retreat when likely to be overpowered by their enemies.

Kilburne imagines that the sea came up this valley, beneath Sutton castle, which he also supposes to have been built when such was the case; and in that opinion he seems to have been confirmed by an anchor being found not far below the fabric, in the memory of some persons then living.

This place was once in the possession of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, and had belonged to Leofwine, a younger brother of King Harold, who was slain fighting for that monarch at the fatal and sanguinary battle of Hastings.

Upon the disgrace of Odo, it became the property of Baldwin de Betun, earl of Albermarle, who, in the reign of King John, granted this manor to William Mareschal, earl of Pembroke, with Alice his daughter, in marriage.

In the 10th year of Henry III. the latter nobleman remarried Alianore, the king's sister; and in the 14th of the same reign, had a confirmation of this manor, upon condition that Alianore his wife, if she survived him, should enjoy it during her life. He died in the 15th of the above monarch, on which the sheriff had the king's order to deliver possession of this fortress to his widow, who afterwards married Simon de Montfort, earl of Leicester, who was slain fighting on the part of the discontented barons, at the battle of Evesham. Countess Alianore and her children were then compelled to forsake this realm, and she died some time after in the nunnery of Montarges, in France.

In the mean time, the four brothers of William earl of Pembroke, being dead, their inheritance became divided between the heirs of their five sisters, when the manor of Sutton was allotted to Joan, the second sister, widow of Warine de Monchensie, by whom she had one son and a daughter, Joan, married to Valence, the king's half brother, who in her right became possessed of this estate. He died in the reign of Edward I., leaving his widow surviving, who had this manor assigned to her, as part of her dowry, when it was found to be held of the king *in capite*, and that it was of the king's marshalsea. She left one son, Adomar, or Aymer de Valence, earl of Pembroke; and three daughters.

Aymer earl of Pembroke, on her death, became possessed of this manor, who was murdered in France in the reign of Edward II., and leaving no issue by either of his wives, for he was thrice married, his three sisters became his coheirs; of whom Isabel, married to John de Hastings, of Bergavenny, seems to have had this manor allotted to her, as part of her share in the inheritance. In consequence of this match, the arms of Hastings quartering Valence, were put up by some of his descendants, on the roof of Canterbury cloisters, where they now remain. She was then a widow, her husband having died in the 6th year of that reign, leaving John de Hastings his son and heir, who also died under Edward II., leaving no issue by Juliana de Leyburne his wife. However, by a former marriage, he had one son, Laurence, who was, in the reign of Edward III. made earl of Pembroke, in consequence of his descent from Isabel, the eldest sister and coheir of Aymer de Valence, earl of Pembroke. He died possessed of this manor in the 22d of that reign, as did also his grandson, John earl of Pembroke, in the 13th of Richard II.; about which time we find this manor styled, in some records, the manor of *Sutton Hastings*, which being soon dropped, it resumed its former name of Valence. Philippa countess of Pembroke, survived her husband, and remarried Richard Fitzalan earl of Arundel, and died in the possession of this estate in the 2d year of Henry IV., she then bearing the title of countess of Pembroke; after which, Reginald lord Grey, of Ruthin, became entitled to it, as next of kin and heir of Aymer, earl of Pembroke, who, at the coronation of Henry IV. carried the great golden spurs. He was afterwards taken

prisoner in Wales, by Owen Glendower, and compelled to give ten thousand marks for his ransom, to raise which, Henry, in his 4th year, granted license to Robert Braybrook, bishop of London, and other feoffees of Reginald's lordships, to sell this manor, among others, towards raising the above sum.

They sold it soon afterwards to St. Leger, for Juliana, widow of Thomas St. Leger, esq., of Otterden, died possessed of it in the 5th year of Henry V. Soon after it became the property of William Clifford, esq., son of Sir Lewis Clifford, descended from the Clifford's, of Clifford castle, in Herefordshire. It continued in the latter family down to Nicholas Clifford, who left an only daughter and heir, Mildred; and she carried this manor in marriage to Sir George Harpur, who resided at Sutton Valence in the 2d year of Edward VI.

In the windows of the manor house, were formerly the armorial escutcheons of the family of the Clifford's impaling Colepeper, Savage, and Bourne. On the gateway, were the arms of Clifford impaling Isley, and quartering Fremingham. After the death of Sir George Harpur, she married Sir Edward Moore, who settled in Ireland. By her first husband she left a son, Edward, who was knighted; and by her second she had several children.

She appears to have entitled both her husbands to this manor during her life, after which it became the property of her son, Sir Edward Harpur, who alienated it to Sir Edward Hales, knight and baronet. He died possessed of this estate in 1654, when it passed to his grandson, Sir Edward, whose trustees sold it, in 1670, to Sir William Drake, of Amersham, in Bucks. The latter owner settled part of it, as a jointure, in 1675, upon Elizabeth, his wife's daughter, and ultimately sole heir of William Montague, chief baron of the Exchequer; whose son, Montague Drake, esq. left by Mary, a son, Montague Gerard Drake, esq., whose trustees, during his infancy, in the reign of Queen Anne, sold this manor, with the demesnes and other estates in this and the adjoining parishes, to Sir Christopher Desbouverie, of Chart Sutton. He, in 1720, purchased of Montague Drake, esq. the remainder of his estates, and became possessed of the entire fee; when he died, holding this manor, in 1733. Since which it has descended, in the same line as

those of Langley and Chart, to his youngest daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Teston.

A court-leet and court-baron is held for this manor.

Although this estate, on the division of Sir Christopher Desbouverie's property, was allotted to the youngest, named Elizabeth, yet several farms and lands, in the outparts of this and the adjoining parishes, were given to the eldest daughter, Anne, married to John Hervey, esq., afterwards of Beechworth, which, on his death, descended to his only son, Christopher Hervey, esq.

In the 10th year of George II. an Act passed enabling the family of Desbouverie to use the surname of Bouverie only, in pursuance of the will of Jacob Desbouverie, esq. deceased.

Sutton Place, otherwise *Clenkards*, is a seat in this parish, situated about the middle of the hill, at a small distance south-eastward of the town.

In the reign of Charles II. it was the estate and residence of Archibald Clenkard, esq., who was sheriff in 1682 and the two succeeding years. After his decease, it passed to the Livesey's, who sold it to John Payne, esq. of London. He died possessed of it in 1747, leaving three sons; of whom, John, the eldest, was a merchant, of London, in 1738; and Edward, the youngest, to whom he gave this estate. He lessened this mansion, which was, before, very large, and made other improvements, when he died in 1794; after which it was sold by his heirs.

Town Sutton is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton, to which it was once so considerable as to confer its name.

The church, which stands at a small distance westward from the village, is dedicated to St. Mary, being a handsome structure, with the steeple on the north side, which formerly had a spire, but, being destroyed by lightning, is now flat, and covered with lead.

This church was anciently an appendage to the manor of Sutton Valence, in which state it continued down to John de Hastings, earl of Pembroke, lord of that manor, who died possessed of it under Edward II. as appears by the escheat rolls of that year. Soon after, it must have passed into the possession of the priory of Leeds, as in the 2d year of Richard II. that mo-

narch granted his licence to the above priory to appropriate this church; and it was confirmed to the priory by patent in the reign of Henry VI. At the request of the prior and canons, the parish-church of East Sutton was then *united* to this church, to which it has been ever since esteemed a chapel.

On the dissolution of the priory of Leeds, under Henry VIII. this parsonage, with the advowson of the vicarage, and the chapel of East Sutton annexed thereto, devolved to the crown, when the king settled it on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester, part of whose inheritance it has ever since continued.

The parsonage, with the manor annexed, has been for many years held on lease from the dean and chapter, by the family of Payne; Edward Payne, esq. of London died in 1794, possessed of the lease, and his heirs subsequently held the same.

The vicarage of Sutton Valence was endowed with all tithes whatsoever, except corn and hay, and is valued in the king's books at £7 9 7, the yearly tenths being 14s. 11½d. In 1640 it was estimated at £73, when the communicants were 226.

The vicar of Sutton Valence serves the cure of the church of East Sutton, as a chapel annexed to the same, and as such is entitled to the vicarial tithes of that parish in right of his vicarage, he being presented and inducted to the living of Sutton Valence, with the chapel of East Sutton annexed.

In 1821 there were 202 dwellings in the parish of Town Sutton; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 530, females 528, making a total of 1058 souls.

East Sutton is the next parish eastward from Town Sutton, having the appellation of East from its situation, which is eastward of the two adjoining parishes of Sutton Valence, and Chart Sutton; although that of Sutton, near Dover, is also frequently styled East Sutton, from its situation, being in the eastern part of this county.

It is a small parish, and would be little known or frequented, were it not for the residence of the Filmer family. The soil is much the same as that of Sutton Valence, the quarry hills crossing the centre of the district. The church stands near the summit of the hill, at the back of East Sutton place, which is pleasantly

situated, commanding a most beautiful and extensive view southward, the park lying before it, which is amply clothed with trees, consisting of ash and oak, there being also a fine piece of water in sight of the mansion. About half a mile south-east from the manor house, near the centre of the hill, is Little Charlton, which has still the appearance of a gentleman's seat, possessing several good rooms, well ornamented with stucco and fretwork, with every convenience for a gentleman's family, and the hospitality of former times. From the top of the hill, southward, it is within the Weald, and on the other side, above the church, from the shade of numerous trees, which spread thickly over it, that part presents an unpleasant and gloomy aspect. In this direction is Chartway street, the only village in the parish, the southern side being within its boundaries, the northern part is in that of Bromfield, the rest in East Sutton, excepting the two small hamlets of Friday and Sunday streets, which are interspersed at various distances throughout the village.

This place was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record.

Upon that prelate's disgrace, in 1084, these estates became confiscated to the crown; and, in the reign of Henry III. John de Salario held East Sutton of Simon de Montfort, earl of Leicester. Geoffry de Martel possessed it at the latter end of the same reign, and in the commencement of that of Edward I. he had for successor Adam de Martel, whose right was allowed before the justices itinerant, in the 21st of Edward I. Aymer de Valence, earl of Pembroke, was in possession of this property in the reign of Edward II. and died in the 17th year of that prince, upon which his three sisters became his coheirs, when Isabel married John de Hastings, of Bergavenny, and had this manor allotted to her as part of her share in the inheritance. In his descendants, earls of Pembroke, it continued in the same line as Sutton Valence, till on failure of their issue, under Henry IV. Reginald lord Grey became possessed of the estate, and his feoffees sold it to Richard Brigge Lancaster, king at arms, who alienated it in the third year of Henry V. to Thomas Buttiller and Thomas Bank. It then passed into the family of the Darrell's, one of whom, Sir Richard de Darrell, possessed it in the reign of King Edward IV. In the 1st year of Henry VIII.

John York, esq. of Bamsbury, in Wiltshire, owned this manor, which he passed away to Richard Chetham, prior of the priory of Leeds, where it appears to have remained for the use of his convent, by a receipt in the Exchequer, under Henry VIII. They had, however, divested themselves of its possession before the 20th of that reign, when Sir Henry de Guldeford, knight of the garter, and comptroller of the king's household, owned it. He died in the 23d of that reign, and his heirs sold this manor the ensuing year to Richard Hill, esq. who alienated it to Thomas lord Cromwell. He exchanged it with the crown for other lands, where the fee remained till the above prince, in his 37th year, granted the same, with its appurtenances, to John Tufton, and Stephen Reaves, to hold *in capite*. He alienated it to Thomas Argall, who procured by an Act the disgavelment of his lands in this county, and died possessed of the estate in the 6th year of Edward VI.

His son and heir, Richard Argall, esq. had by Mary, his wife, a son, John, and two daughters, Catherine, wife of Ralph Bathurst, esq., and Elizabeth, married to Sir Edward Filmer, of Little Charleton, in this parish. John, the son, was of Colchester, in Essex, and in the reign of James I. sold this manor to his brother-in-law, Sir Edward Filmer, who removed to the manor of East Sutton place. This family was originally seated at the manor of Herst, in the parish of Otterden, where Robert Filmer resided in the reign of Edward II. His descendants continued there till Robert Filmer, son of James, removed to the manor of Little Charleton, which he had purchased of the family of the Kempe's. He was one of the prothonotaries of the Common Pleas in the reign of Elizabeth, and to him, Cooke clarencieux at arms, in 1570, granted, or rather confirmed, the ancient family coat, viz. *sable three bars, and three cinquefoils, in chief, or.* He died in 1585, and was buried in this church. He was the father of Sir Edward Filmer, the purchaser of this manor of East Sutton, as before mentioned. He had by his wife nine sons and nine daughters, and died in 1629, being succeeded by Robert, his eldest son, who was knighted by Charles I. and resided at East Sutton. He was educated at Trinity college, Cambridge, and wrote several tracts in defence of the rights of the crown, all of which were published by his son after his death. He was a great sufferer during the civil wars, under the reign of Charles I.

his house having been plundered ten times by the rebels, and himself imprisoned in Leeds castle for his loyalty. He died in 1653, having married Anne, daughter and coheir of Martin Heton, bishop of Ely, whereby an addition of fortune, as well as of arms, accrued to him. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Edward Filmer, gentleman of the privy chamber, both to Kings Charles I. and II. and dying unmarried at Paris, in 1668, was succeeded in his estates by his next brother, Robert Filmer, esq. barrister at law, of Gray's Inn; who, in consideration of his father's sufferings, and loyalty to Charles I. was, on December 24, 1674, created a baronet. He resided at East Sutton place, which, as well as the park round it, he greatly improved, enclosing the whole with a stone wall.

He died in 1675, leaving several sons and daughters, of whom Sir Robert, his eldest and successor, resided here, and in 1689 served the office of sheriff. He died in 1720, having married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir William Beversham, of Holbrook hall, in Suffolk, a master in chancery, by whom he had several sons and daughters; Beversham Filmer, a younger son, was of Lincoln's Inn, barrister at law, and one of the most able conveyancers this kingdom has produced. He died unmarried in 1763, and was buried in this church, having by his last will bequeathed his estates in this county to his nephew, Sir John Filmer, bart.

Sir Edward Filmer, the eldest son, resided at East Sutton, and married Mary, daughter of John Wallis, esq. of Oxon, by whom he had twenty children, viz. eleven sons and nine daughters. Of the former, John, the eldest, succeeded him in his title and estate, and of the daughters, Dorothy married the late Sir John Honywood, bart. who died in 1755, æt. 72. Sir Edward Filmer was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir John Filmer, bart. of East Sutton, who died in 1797, æt. 84, having married Dorothy, daughter of the Rev. Julius Deedes, prebendary of Canterbury, by whom he had no issue. She survived him, but the title, with this manor and seat, with the rest of his possessions, devolved to his next brother and heir, Sir Beversham Filmer, bart. who resided here, and possessed this property.

Boyton is a manor in this parish, which formerly belonged to the priory of Christ church, in Canterbury, where it continued till the dissolution in the reign of Henry VIII. when it was sur-

rendered to the king, who settled it on his new erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, part of whose possessions it remained.

The lessee of this manor, in the year 1645, was Sir Robert Stapleton, bart. who held it under the ruling powers of that period, the dean and chapter having been dissolved; when the yearly rental was £5 6 8, and £1 for entertainment-money to the receiver of the church.

East Sutton is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. The church, dedicated to Sts. Peter and Paul, is not large, having a square tower at the west end, and is kept remarkably neat, and in good repair. The monumental effigies of the Filmer's present a complete series of that family, from their first residence in this parish, all the brass records remaining perfect. The grave-stone over Sir Edward Filmer, who died in 1629, placed within the altar rails, is very curious, having over it an entire sheet of copper, with portraits of himself, his wife, and numerous progeny engraved thereon, inscribed with their names, and the coats of arms, and quarterings appertaining to him and his wife at the corners. There is also a neat bust in marble of the late Sir Edward Filmer, bart. who died in 1755, with an inscription to his memory against the wall, over the pew in which the family sit.

The church of Sutton was anciently part of the possessions of the priory of Leeds, to which it was appropriated, and the duty first served by a chaplain appointed by the prior and convent, at whose request it was afterwards united to the adjoining church of Town Sutton, whereto it has ever since been esteemed a chapel.

On the dissolution of the priory of Leeds, in the reign of Henry VIII. the parsonage appropriate of East Sutton passed to the crown, as did also that of Town Sutton annexed, where they did not long remain, as the king settled them both on his newly erected dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom they remained.

The vicar of Town Sutton serves the cure of this church, as a chapel annexed, and as such is entitled to the vicarial profits of this parish in right of his vicarage.

The church of East Sutton is not valued in the king's books, being included in that of Town Sutton.

The lessee of the parsonage claims the tithes of all *corn, hops,* and *grass,* growing in this parish. In the reign of Queen Anne these tithes were estimated at upwards of £80 per annum, besides the glebe land, which was let at £50 a year.

In 1648 the communicants in this parish were 130.

The small tithes, and other emoluments of this benefice, in the reign of Queen Anne, were estimated at £18 per annum, there being no glebe land belonging to the same.

The lands and premises given and devised by Stephen Pende, and George Ulmer, under Henry VIII. and Queen Elizabeth, were worth £10 per annum in the above reign, and appear to have been intended for the better performance of divine service in this church every Sunday; before which, the vicar of Sutton Valence used to officiate here but once or twice in three months. From the year 1648 to 1680, the parishioners bestowed the income derived from the above lands, &c. on the repairs of the church, but since that time the vicar of Sutton Valence has generally received the amount, in consequence of which, he preaches here and at Sutton Valence alternately on the sabbath morning and afternoon.

In 1821 there were fifty-nine dwellings in the parish of East Sutton; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 169, females 143, making a total of 312 souls.

Ulcomb is the next parish eastward from East Sutton, often pronounced *Uckham,* in Domesday record frequently written *Olecumbe,* and in other documents *Wulcombe,* and lastly *Ulcomb.*

Part of this parish, to the southward of the hill adjoining *Boughton Malherb,* is in the division of East Kent, and a portion containing the borough of Kingsnorth, in the lath of Scray, and hundred of Faversham, having formerly belonged to the abbey of that town.

The parish of Ulcomb extends about three miles from north to south, and comprises two miles in width. It is rather an obscure and unfrequented district, having but little thoroughfare; the quarry hills cross it, on the summit of which stands the village, with Ulcomb place, and the parsonage within the same,

in which direction the rock-stone lies much nearer the surface than in the adjacent parishes.

To the northward Ulcomb extends into the large coppice of Kingswood, which almost joins this village. On the south side of the quarry hills are three houses of some note, all of which, for a considerable period, belonged to the family of the Belcher's, which had been seated in this parish for some generations. The Belcher's of Ulcombe were descended from William Belcher, rector of this parish, who died in 1739, leaving two sons, Richard, of Rochester, M.D., and Samuel, of Boughton Malherb, leaving an only daughter, Sarah, who became entitled, by the will of her uncle, Mr. Peter Ady, to one of the above-mentioned houses, situated a little below the summit of Knole hill, which she carried in marriage to Mr. Thomas Thomson, of Kenfield, whose trustees afterwards sold this property.

Dr. Belcher, of Rochester, the eldest son of the rector of this parish, had one son, William, who also left three sons, of whom the eldest, Stringer Belcher, was rector of this parish.

Samuel, the second son, resided at another of the before-mentioned dwellings, near the summit of Knole hill, and died unmarried in 1760: and Edward, the third son, resided at the other mansion, nearer the village of Ulcombe, and died in 1778, leaving two sons, Stringer, who resided at Otterden, and died there unmarried; and William, who espoused Charlotte, daughter of Thomas Thomson, esq. of Kenfield, and succeeded both to his father's seat in this parish, and likewise to that near the summit of Knole hill, to both of which he afterwards became entitled.

The district of the Weald commences at the summit of the quarry hill, whence this parish extends over a low flat country southward. The soil is a stiff clay, and the land rendered fertile from being manured with the marle dug up here, the rich and oily substance of which softens the stiff particles of the clay, and not only renders it more prolific, but much easier for tillage. The hedge-rows are broad, and interspersed with large oak trees, the whole being watered by several small streams rising on the side of the hill, one of which turns a mill at Chegworth, and flowing through the lower part of this parish, joins the larger stream of the Medway a little above Hockenbury bridge.

In that direction there is a small hamlet, built on one side of a common, contiguous to which is the estate of Kingsnorth.

This place was given, in very early times, by one of the Saxon kings to the priory of Christ church, in Canterbury, from which it was wrested in the time of the Danish wars in this kingdom; but, in the year 941, King Edmund, and Eadred his brother, restored it to the above church, with other lands, which his ancestors had unjustly taken from that institution, the grant in question having been made the same year in which Ethelstane, brother of King Edmund, died. Edmund being then raised to the throne, declared these lands free from all secular services, excepting the repelling of invasions, and erection of bridges and castles.

In the reign of William the Conqueror, Ulcomb was held of the archbishop of Canterbury, by knight's service, and entered accordingly in Domesday record. Alfer, mentioned in the above instrument, was the tenant of this manor under the archbishop, and appears to have been a descendant of Ealher, or Alcher, earl of Kent, in 853, and ancestor of the family of the Aucher's, baronets, now extinct in this county.

William, earl of the town of Eu, in Normandy, held it, as appears by the above survey, in the reign of the Conqueror, of the archbishop, by knight's service; after which, the family of the St. Leger's, called in Latin *Sancto Leodegario*, became possessed of this property.

Sir Robert de St. Leger attended William duke of Normandy into England, in the year 1066, as appears by the roll of Battle abbey, having been one of those warriors who assisted him in the conquest of this kingdom. There exists a tradition in the family, stating that the above personage supported the duke with his hand when he quitted his ship to land in Sussex; and that, after the victory at Hastings, having overcome a pagan Dane, who inhabited Ulcombe, he there fixed his residence, and became possessed of this manor at the latter end of the Conqueror's reign, holding it of the archbishop by knight's service.

William St. Leger, his grandson, as it is supposed, lived in the reign of Henry II. He was succeeded by Ralph, who, among other Kentish gentlemen, accompanied Richard I. to the siege of St. John d'Acre, in Palestine.

Ralph de St. Leger, of Ulcomb, and Hugh, of Knolton, in this county, were two of the *Recognitores Magna Assisæ*, in the 2d year of John, the former of whom held this manor, in the 12th and 13th years of that reign, of the archbishop. His successor, of the same name, in the reign of Henry III. obtained the grant of a market and fair at his manor; and under Edward I. he, with Sir John and Sir Thomas St. Leger, attended the king to the siege of Carlaverock, in Scotland, where they were knighted for their bravery.

Ralph St. Leger possessed this manor in the reign of Edward III. and paid aid for the same as two knight's fees, held of the archbishop, in which year he represented this county in parliament, his younger son, Thomas, having been of Otterden. Arnold St. Leger, the eldest son, succeeded his father at Ulcomb, and represented this county in parliament, as did his son Ralph, and in the reign of Richard II. was also sheriff. Three years after, he was returned among the list then taken of the gentry who had a right to bear the coats of armour of their ancestors. He died in the reign of Henry VI. possessed of the manor, and was buried in this church, leaving three sons, Ralph, who succeeded him at Ulcomb; Sir Thomas, who married Anne, duchess of Exeter, and left a sole daughter and heir, married to Sir George Manners lord Roos, ancestors of the earls and dukes of Rutland; and Sir James, married to Anne, daughter and coheir of Thomas Butler, earl of Ormond, from whom the St. Leger's of Devonshire are descended.

Ralph St. Leger, esq. of Ulcomb, the eldest son, was sheriff under Edward VI. and constable of Leeds castle, who died in 1470, and was buried in this church.

Ralph, his son, resided at Ulcomb, where he kept his shrievalty in the reign of Henry VII. Anthony succeeded his father, and by an Act under Henry VIII. and Edward VI. procured the disgavelment of his lands. He was a gentleman, who, from his singular merit, and eminent services, proved himself an ornament to his country and family, having ranked high in the esteem of Henry VIII. who made him one of his privy chamber, and sheriff of the county, being then seated at his paternal mansion in this parish. The following year he was made lord deputy of Ireland, and in 1543 knight of the garter. On the king's death he was continued in his posts of lord deputy, and a member of the privy

council, as he was also under Queen Mary; and, being well versed in Irish affairs, through his prudence and magnanimity effected more towards the civilization of that people, and bringing them into submission to the English government, than had any other statesman since the conquest of Ireland down to his own time. Being recalled in the 3d and 4th of Philip and Mary, he retired to this estate, where he died in 1559, and was buried with his ancestors at Ulcomb. He bore for his arms, *Azure fretty argent, a chief, or;* which was not the ancient shield, that having been *Azure, a fret argent, a chief, or,* as appears by those now remaining on the roof of the cloisters at Canterbury, in the church at Woodnesborough, and among the quarterings of the coat borne by the Lords Hunsdon. He had by his wife Agnes, daughter of Hugh Warham, of Croydon, and niece to William Warham, archbishop of Canterbury, three sons and one daughter, of whom Sir Anthony St. Leger, the youngest, was master of the rolls in Ireland, and a privy counsellor, his son and heir having been of Wiarton house, in Boughton Monchensie, in the description of which a further account has already been given.

Warham St. Leger, the eldest surviving son, was of Ulcomb, where he was sheriff in the reign of Elizabeth. In 1565 he was knighted, and the following year appointed chief governor of Munster, and privy counsellor in Ireland, in which kingdom he performed eminent services for her majesty, but during his progress was unfortunately slain in 1599, at the head of his troops, in an encounter with Hugh Macquire and his followers, those two chiefs killing each other in combat. Sir William St. Leger, his eldest son, succeeded him in this manor, having proved a gentleman of great merit, valour, and integrity, on which account he was appointed, by Charles I. lord president of Munster, privy counsellor of that kingdom, and sergeant-major general of the Irish forces. He was ancestor of the St. Leger's, viscounts Donraile, and others of this name still remaining in that kingdom, where he died in 1642. Some years prior to his decease he alienated this manor to Henry Clerke, esq. of Rochester, who served in parliament for that city in the 1st year of Charles I. of which he was recorder, and in the same reign made sergeant at law. His paternal arms were, *Argent, on a bend gules, between three pellets, as many swans proper.*

He left a son and heir, Sir Francis Clerke, who succeeded him

at Ulcomb, having been twice member for Rochester, and of the privy council. He resided at Ulcomb place, and dying in 1685, was succeeded here by his only son Francis, M. P. likewise for that city, and a resident at Ulcombe, where he died in 1691. This estate then devolved by his will to Gilbert Clerke, esq. second son of Gilbert of Chilcot, in Derbyshire, and on his decease in 1725, to his son Godfrey Clerke, of Sutton, in that county. He was succeeded by his son Godfrey Clerke, esq. of Sutton, when his sister and heir, Sarah, carried it in marriage to Job Hart Price, esq. of Aldershot, in Hants, who, in 1787, had license to assume the name and arms of Clerke, in addition to his own, wherefore they are now jointly entitled to this manor, as well as Chegworth in this parish.

Boycot, vulgarly called *Boy court*, is a manor in this parish, which gave both seat and surname to a family of that title, as appears by several old deeds, some of which are without date, wherein mention is made of Stephen, John, and Alexander de Boycott, the last of whom resided here in the reigns of Edward III. and Richard II. From them this manor descended down to John Boycot, who had issue two sons, John and Stephen. One of them sold his moiety by the custom of gavelkind, to Richard Hovenden, and the other alienated his portion, which had passed to him in like manner, to William Adam, who gave the property by will to Thomas Glover, as is mentioned in the deed of sale, whereby he passed it away, in the 1st year of Henry VIII. to Richard Hovenden, who then became possessed of the entire fee of this manor. It was afterwards sold by one of his descendants, to the Clerke's, of Woodchurch, in which name it does not appear to have remained long, as Humphrey Clerke alienated it in the reign of Elizabeth to Thomas Sands, or Sondes, as the name was afterwards spelt, eldest son of Sir Anthony of Throwley, who passed it away the following year to Sir Maurice Berkeley, standard-bearer to Henry VIII., Edward VI., and Queen Elizabeth, who had married his sister, and was descended of the same family as those of this name, since ennobled.

On his decease, Elizabeth lady Berkeley seems to have possessed this manor, in whose descendants the same continued until it went to the name of Hubert; by a female heir of which line it passed in marriage to the Heath's, of the family of those

formerly of Brasted Place, in this county, who bore the same arms. Nicholas Heath, esq. of Sussex, the grandson, in 1772, obtained the king's sign manual to assume the name and arms of Nicholas only, the arms of which family are *Argent, on a cross gules, a crown or;* Nicholas Nicholas, esq. having been the last possessor.

KINGSNORTH, otherwise *Kingsnode,* is a manor, lying in this parish and Boughton Malherbe, which was given to the abbot and convent of Faversham, in the reign of Richard II., and as such is esteemed to be in the hundred of Faversham; part of the possessions of which it continued till the dissolution of that abbey, in the 30th year of Henry VIII., when it was surrendered, together with all its possessions into the king's hands. It remained vested in the crown till the reign of Edward VI., who, in his 4th year, granted it to Sir Anthony St. Leger, lord deputy of Ireland, whose eldest son, Sir Warham, having levied a fine under Elizabeth, passed it away to William Isley, esq. The latter, in the 21st year of that reign, alienated it to James Austeyn, who conveyed it by sale to Robert Cranmer, esq., of Chepsted, in this county, who died in 1619, leaving an only daughter and heir, Anne. She carried it in marriage to Sir Arthur Herrys, eldest son of Sir William Herrys, of Crixey, in Essex, by whom he had two sons, Sir Cranmer Herrys and John. He died in 1632, and by will devised this manor to his second son, John, whose heir possessed it at the Restoration of Charles II. He was afterwards of Christ church, in Canterbury, where he died in 1727, and was buried in the cloisters. His only surviving sister and heir, Mrs. Herrys, became possessed of this manor, who shortly after passed it away to Sir Edward Filmer, bart. of East Sutton, whose second son, Sir Beversham, at length became entitled to this property.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

There is a small court held in this parish for the *manor of Huntingfield,* which appears to be a limb of the manor of Huntingfield, in Easling, and as such, to have continued with the same part of the possessions of the free chapel or college of St. Stephen's, in Westminster, till its dissolution, under Edward VI. Since that time this manor continued in the same line of ownership as that in Easling, to the family of the Grove's, of Tunstall; in which it remained till Richard Grove, esq., of

London, dying unmarried in 1792, gave this, among the rest of his estates in this county, to William Jemmet, gent., of Ashford, and William Marshall, of London, who owned the same.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

Ulcomb is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. In this church, dedicated to All Saints, lie buried in a vault many, of ancient family, of the St. Leger's, down to the year 1654, when the last of that eminent race resided in this parish. It was from the earliest time esteemed as an appendage to the manor of Ulcomb, and, about the year 1220, constituted *collegiate* by Archbishop Stephen Langton, at the request of Ralph de St. Leger, its patron; the ordination of which is still preserved among the records of the dean and chapter of Canterbury. There is also an instrument whereby it appears that the head of this college or church was styled *Archipresbyter*, and the inferior members minor canons. However, soon after the year 1293, this collegiate institution seems to have dropped, when the church again became, and has ever since remained, a single undivided rectory, the patronage of which has regularly continued in the possession of the lords of the manor of Ulcomb.

It was valued in the king's books at £16 5 10, the yearly tenths being £1 12 7. In 1640 the estimate was £69, communicants being 225. Under the reign of Queen Anne the annual valuation was £140.

A religious fraternity existed in this church prior to the reformation, called the Fraternity of Corpus Christi.

In 1821 there were 115 dwellings in the parish of Ulcomb; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 358, females 310, making a total of 668 souls.

Boughton Malherb is the next parish, eastward, from Ulcomb, and situated almost in the centre of this county. It is so called from a family that anciently possessed this district, as well as to distinguish it from several other parishes of the name of Boughton in the county of Kent.

It is written in ancient deeds both *Boughton* and *Bocton*, and in some, *Bacton*, otherwise *Boughton*, and seems, as well as the

other parishes of the same name, to have been so called from *boc*, signifying, in Saxon, a charter; and *ton*, a town or parish, that is to say, the place held by charter. Part of this parish, through the middle of Chilston house to Lenham church, is in the Lath of Shipway, and division of east Kent.

The summit of the hill, which crosses this parish from west to east, is the northern boundary of the Weald of Kent; that portion, therefore, southward of that line, is within that district.

A very small portion, however, of this parish, lies above, or northward of the quarry hills, where the soil is a deep sand; at the northern boundary of which, at a place called *Sandway*, the high road runs from Ashford, towards Maidstone, where it is joined by the pales of Chilston park. The mansion stands about a quarter of a mile within, on lower ground, in rather a damp and wet situation, but surrounded by trees; behind, the ground rises to the hills; near the summit of which, is the church, and not far distant, eastward, the parsonage. Contiguous to the churchyard, westward, are the small remains of *Boughton Place*, being a very pleasant situation, the major part having been long pulled down; notwithstanding which, the remains convey a good idea of what it once appeared. In this direction the quarry rock abounds near the surface, and from the church, southward, the Weald commences; the lands above and below the hill being distinguished by the names of Boughton Upland and Boughton Weald, in the same manner as the other parishes. From the church, southward, the hill declines; and not far from the base, are the village or hamlet of Grassley Green and Eastwood Common, with another small hamlet of houses, on the lower side. Hence the parish extends over an unpleasant country, very flat and deep, and continues so till it joins Hedcorne and Smarden; the whole being watered by several small streamlets, which run into the larger current at Hedcorne. About a mile only from the boundary of the parish, is the site of Colbridge castle, the mote and foundations of which are all that now remain.

Dr. Plot mentions, in his MS. collections for a natural history of this county, some petrified oyster-shells having been discovered at Chilston, which were even larger than those of Cyzicum, mentioned by Pliny, as of greater dimensions than any known at the period when he wrote.

At the time of taking the general survey of Domesday, A.D. 1080, this manor was held of the archbishop of Canterbury by knight's service, and seems to have been included in the donation which Æthelstan Etheling gave by will, in 1015, to Christ church, in Canterbury, of lands in Hollingborne; under the title of whose possessions they were entered.

This estate afterwards fell into the possession of the family of Malherb, which conferred its name on this parish. Robert held it, in the reign of John, of the archbishop of Canterbury, as appears by the roll of knights' fees, returned to that king's treasurer, in the 12th and 13th year of his reign; and Alicia Malherb possessed Boughton Malherb manor in the reign of Henry III.

Robert de Gatton, son of Robert of that name, one of the judges of the great assize in the 2d year of King John, died possessed of this manor in the reign of Henry III., and bore for his arms, *Chequy, or and azure;* he was succeeded by Hamo his son, who died in the 20th year of Edward I., holding it of the king *in capite*, as of the honour of Peverel, and by the service of ward to the castle of Dover, as well as by suit to the court of Ospringe, from three weeks to three weeks. Hamo his son left two daughters his coheirs; when Elizabeth carried this manor in marriage to William de Dene, who died in the 15th year of Edward III. possessing this inheritance in right of Elizabeth his wife, with the advowson of the church, having obtained a charter of *free warren* for his lands situated here.

His eldest son, Thomas, died possessed of this manor in the 23d of Edward III., his armorial bearings being *Argent, a fess dancette, gules.* He left, by his wife, four daughters; when Martha carried this estate in marriage to Sir John Gousall.

Shortly after his demise, we find it possessed, though by what means cannot be ascertained, by Robert Corbie, who built a stately mansion here, and obtained the king's licence to fortify this, his manor house, at Boughton, with embattlements and towers, according to the mode of defence adopted in those times. His son, Robert, was sheriff in the reign of Richard II., and left an only daughter and heir, Joan, who carried this manor in marriage to Nicholas Wotton, esq., whose descendants flourished in this parish for many succeeding generations, and for their learning, fortune, and honours, at a period when

honours were really such, may truly be said to have figured as ornaments to their country in general, and more particularly to this county. Mr. Wotton was of the Draper's company, and twice lord mayor of London, at which time he bore for his arms *Argent, a cross patee, pitched at the foot, sable,* quartered with Corbye, *Argent, a saltire ingrailed sable;* which arms of Corbye, his son bore in right of his mother, in preference to his own, as the elder branch of the family, which his descendants continued to do for some time afterwards. Stowe says, it was a privilege for any one who had been lord mayor, not to serve the king, without his own consent, in any other part of the kingdom. A circumstance of this kind happened in the reign of Henry VI., for Nicholas Wotton, having been mayor and alderman, and living in Kent, stood upon this privilege, and refused to serve, when he was empanelled, with others, before the judge of assize, in this county, upon articles touching the king's peace, and on pretence of the liberty of the city of London, refused to be sworn. This was considered a contempt, for which he was afterwards pardoned. He retired to Boughton Place, where he died in 1448, and was buried in the church here. His grandson, Sir Robert Wotton, was lieutenant of Guisnes, and comptroller of Calais, where he died. He had been sheriff under Henry VII., and married Anne, one of the sisters and coheirs of Sir Edward Belknap, by whom he left two sons, Edward his heir, and Henry, LL.D., afterwards dean of York and Canterbury.

Sir Edward his heir, succeeded him, who was treasurer of Calais, and privy counsellor to Henry VIII.; and Hollingshed says, the king offered to make him lord chancellor, which he refused, from a principle of modesty. In the 27th year of Henry VIII., he kept his shrievalty at Boughton Place, and procured his lands to be disgavelled. He died in 1550, possessed of this manor and rectory of Boughton Malherb, held *in capite,* as of the king's manor of Ospringe; the manor of Colbridge, as well as that of Byndwards marsh; with other lands, purchased of Henry VIII., and held *in capite* by knight's service.

Thomas Wotton, esq., eldest son of the latter, succeeded him in Boughton Place, where he resided. He was closely imprisoned in the Fleet, in 1553, by Queen Mary, under pretence of his religion, but in reality at the request of his uncle, Dr. Nicholas Wotton, in consequence of a dream he had had in

France, where he was then ambassador; and this circumstance, in all likelihood, saved Mr. Wotton's life, for, while he was in prison, Sir Thomas Wyatt's rebellion broke out, in which, it is most probable, he would have taken an active part, had he not been so confined. He was twice sheriff; and in July 1573, being the 16th of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, had the honour of entertaining the queen, with her whole court, at his seat here, in her progress through this county. Walton says, that the queen, when at Boughton, offered to knight Mr. Wotton, which he declined, being unwilling to change his country retirement and recreations, for a courtier's life. It appears, however, from his epitaph, that he afterwards accepted of that honour. He resided here till his death in 1587, having been remarkable for his hospitality, beloved by his countrymen, an encourager of learning, and possessed of a plentiful estate.

Thomas Wotton was twice married; by his first lady he had Edward his heir, and other children; and by his second, only one son, Henry, afterwards knighted, and provost of Eton college.

He was succeeded here by his eldest surviving son, Sir Edward Wotton, who was employed by Queen Elizabeth, as her ambassador, upon several occasions; after which he was made comptroller of her household, represented this county in Parliament, and served the office of sheriff in the 36th year of that reign. In the 1st of James I. he was created lord Wotton, baron of Merley, in this county; and, the following year, lieutenant of Kent. He enclosed the grounds round his house, transforming the same into a park, but it has long ceased to be such; and died in 1628, when he was succeeded by Thomas lord Wotton, his only son, who died two years after. It has been observed, that Nicholas, son of Sir Nicholas Wotton, bore his mother's arms of Corbie, in preference to his own, till Thomas lord Wotton, as appears by the bearings on his grave-stone, reassumed the arms of Wotton in his first quartering, which was followed by his four daughters, coheirs; and Guillim says, that *Argent, a saltine (engrailed) sable,* was borne by the name of Wotton, and confirmed to Edward Wotton, which, with his quarterings, being seventeen in number, were marshalled by Robert Cooke, in 1580. His daughters were married; Catherine, to Henry lord Stanhope, son of the Earl of Chesterfield; Hester,

to Baptist Noel, viscount Camden; Margaret, to Sir John Tufton, of the More, knight and baronet; and Anne, to Sir Edward Hales, of Tunstal.

On the division of his estates among his daughters, the manor of Boughton Place, with the advowson of the rectory, were allotted to the eldest, Catherine, whose husband, Henry lord Stanhope, became possessed of the same. He was descended from ancestors seated in the county of Nottingham, where the name had flourished in great renown, the family having borne for their arms, quarterly, *Ermine and gules.* After a succession of many generations, Michael Stanhope became the heir male to this family, in the reign of Henry VIII., whose grandson, Sir John, in 1611, left one son, Philip. By his second marriage, he had several sons and daughters; of whom, Sir John, the eldest, was of Elvaston. Sir Philip, eldest son of Sir John, above mentioned, was, in 1616, created lord Stanhope, and subsequently earl of Chesterfield, who continuing stedfast in his loyalty to Charles I., his house was burnt to the ground, and, being taken prisoner at Litchfield, he endured a long confinement, and died in 1656. By his first wife he had eleven sons and four daughters; of the former, Henry, the second, but eldest surviving child, married Catherine, daughter and coheir of Thomas lord Wotton, and possessed Boughton Malherb, as previously mentioned.

He died during the lifetime of his father, in 1635, leaving his wife surviving, and one son, Philip, then a year old. The lady Catherine, on her husband's death, again became possessed, in her own right, of this estate, and was afterwards created countess of Chesterfield, during her lifetime. She had, before the death of Charles I., remarried John Vanden Kerkhoven, lord of Henulflet, in Holland, by whom she had a son, Charles Henry Kerkhoven, who was, on account of his mother's descent, created lord Wotton of Boughton Malherb, and naturalized. He was likewise created earl of Bellamont, in Ireland, and bore on his shield *Argent, three hearts' gules;* he resided at Boughton Malherb, and dying in 1683, was buried in Canterbury cathedral, giving this estate, by will, to his nephew, Charles Stanhope, younger son of his half brother, Philip, then earl of Chesterfield; with remainder to Philip lord Stanhope, eldest son and heir apparent of his brother.

Charles Stanhope, esq. then changed his name to Wotton, being the last of this family who resided at Boughton Malherb, where he died in 1704. This estate then devolved by the above entail, to Philip lord Stanhope, his elder brother, who, on his father's death, in 1713, succeeded as earl of Chesterfield, and died in 1726. His eldest son, Philip Dormer Stanhope, earl of Chesterfield, became remarkable for the brilliancy of his wit, and the elegance of his manners. He was an eminent statesman, and high in favor with George I. and II. who conferred on him several offices of great honour, in all of which he evinced his splendid abilities and public spirit, whensoever the interest and honour of the country were concerned. At length his declining health obliged him to retire from public business; previous to which, he passed away by sale this manor, with the site of Boughton Place, and all the Wotton estates, in 1750, to Galfridus Mann, esq. of London. His descendant, Robert Mann, was of London, and afterwards of Linton, in this county, who died in 1752, leaving five sons and three daughters. Edward Louisa, the eldest son, was of Linton, where he died unmarried in 1775, and was succeeded by his brother Sir Horatio Mann, bart. K.B., who was the second son, and many years a resident at Florence, as envoy extraordinary. In 1755 he was created a baronet to him and his heirs male, and, in default of such issue, to his brother Galfridus, and his heirs male. He died unmarried in 1786, and was succeeded in title and estate by his nephew Sir Horace, whose father was Galfridus, the third son, which latter, as previously mentioned, had become the purchaser of Boughton manor.

Horatio Mann succeeded his father in this property, who was afterwards knighted, being then styled Sir Horace to distinguish him from his uncle Sir Horatio, on whose death he succeeded him in the baronetage, being twice M.P. for Maidstone, and afterwards for the port and town of Sandwich. He married in 1765, lady Lucy Noel, sister of Lord Gainsborough, by whom he had three daughters, one married to James Mann, esq. of Linton place, and the other to Robert Heron, esq. of Lincolnshire.

WORMSELL has always been accounted as an appendage to the manor of Boughton Malherbe.

COLEBRIDGE, anciently called *Colewebregges*, is an eminent

manor in this parish, the mansion of which, called *Colbridge castle*, stood below the hill, towards Egerton; considerable remains of its former strength being visible in the ruins of the same. It is also currently reported in the neighbourhood that the stones, and other materials of this ruined fortress, were made use of in the erection of Boughton place many ages ago.

In the reign of Henry III. this spot was in the possession of the family of the Peyforer's, one of whom, Fulke, obtained a charter of *free warren* for his lands at Colwebrugge, in the 32d year of Edward I. having also had license in the reign of Edward II. to embattle and fortify his castle. Soon after it appears to have passed into the family of the Leyborne's, and William de Clinton, earl of Huntingdon, husband of Juliana, died possessed of it in the 28th year of Edward III. She surviving him, this manor, in default of heirs, became escheated to the crown, where it remained till the reign of Richard II. when it was vested in John duke of Lancaster, and other feoffees in trust, for the performance of certain religious bequests in the will of Edward III. then lately deceased; and, in consequence, the king granted it to the dean and canons of St. Stephen's college, in Westminster.

This manor so continued till the 1st year of Edward VI. when, being surrendered to that monarch, it appears to have been held by William Hudson, at the yearly rent of £8 13 4. The year following the king granted it to Sir Edward Wotton, to hold *in capite*, who died possessed of it in the 5th year of that reign, when it passed through the same line of ownership as Boughton Malherb, down to Philip Dormer Stanhope, earl of Chesterfield, who, in 1750, sold it, with the rest of the Wotton estates in this part of the county, to Galfridus Mann, bart. who afterwards possessed the same.

Chilson, or Chilston, is a manor, situated in the borough of Sandway, at the north-west boundary of this parish, and crosses the middle of the mansion; the eastern part of which is in the parish of Lenham, lath of Shipway, and eastern division of this county. It was anciently called *Childeston*, and in the reign of Henry I., constituted part of the possessions of William Fitz-Hamon, as appears by the register of the neighbouring priory of Leeds. It then passed to the family of Hoese, since called Hussey; Henry of that name having had a charter

of *free warren* for his manor of Chilston, in the reign of Henry III., previous to which he had taken an active part with the rebellious barons against that monarch. He died under Edward I., leaving Henry Hussey, his son and heir, who, during that reign, was summoned to Parliament; and in his descendants it continued down to Henry Hussey, who, in the 31st of Henry VIII. procured the disgavelment of his lands, and transmitted them by sale to John Parkhurst. His descendant, Sir William, alienated the property to Mr. Richard Northwood, of Dane Court, in Thanet, whose eldest son, Alexander, was of St. Stephen's, near Canterbury, who, soon after the death of Charles I., sold the estate to one Cleggatt. It then passed to Mr. Manby, of London, who immediately alienated the same to Edward Hales, a younger son of Sir Edward Hales, bart., who resided at Chilston, and died in 1696, leaving three daughters coheirs, and they, in 1698, joined in the conveyance of this manor, with other estates in this parish and neighbourhood, to the Hon. Elizabeth Hamilton, eldest daughter of John lord Colepeper, and widow of James Hamilton, esq., eldest son of Sir George Hamilton, of Tyrone, in Ireland.

She resided at Chilston, and dying in 1709, was buried in Hollingborne church, leaving two sons surviving; James earl of Abercorn, and William Hamilton, esq.; to the latter of whom she gave, by her will, this manor, with her other estates in the county of Kent. He resided at Chilston, and died possessed of the property in 1737, leaving by Margaret his wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Hollingborne, four sons and one daughter; of whom, John Hamilton, the eldest, succeeded him at Chilston, where he resided, and enclosed the ground round the same for a park, expending large sums on the improvement, both of the house and lands adjoining. He kept his shrievalty here in 1719, and afterwards, with the concurrence of his eldest son, William, joined in the sale of this estate to Thomas Best, esq., eldest son of Mawdistley Best, esq., of Boxley, who resided at Chilston. He then rebuilt the mansion, making very considerable improvements in the park and grounds, and died in 1795, having married Caroline, daughter of George Scott, esq. of Scott's hall, when he left this manor, among his other estates, to his nephew George, youngest son of his brother, James Best, esq. of Boxley and Chatham, who afterwards resided here.

The tithes of the manor of Chilston, or Childeston, were given to the priory of Leeds, soon after its foundation, by William Fitz-Hamon, the owner; when they remained part of the possessions of the priory till its dissolution, in the reign of Henry VIII., upon which the whole was surrendered into the king's hands, who settled this portion of tithes on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester.

Bewley is a manor in this parish, of considerable repute, extending into the parish of Harrietsham. It was anciently called *Boughley*, and constituted part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, on whose disgrace all his estates being confiscated to the crown, this manor became vested in Eudo Dapifer, and afterwards in Philip de Leleburne, or Leyburne, whose descendant held it in the reign of Edward I. In that name it continued till alienated to the Tregozes, one of whom, Thomas, held it in the reign of Edward III., and obtained a charter of *free warren* for his lands at Boggeleye. John Tregoze died possessed of this manor in the reign of Henry IV.; but it did not long remain in that name, as, under Henry VI., it became the property of the Goldwell's; whence it passed to the Atwater's, of Lenham. Joan, daughter and coheir of Robert Atwater, conveyed it in marriage to Humphrey Hales, of the Dongeon, whose son, Cheney, passed it to his kinsman, John Hales, esq., eldest son of Sir Edward. He disposed of the estate to his brother, Mr. Samuel Hales, whose son afterwards succeeded him; since which, the property has passed, in the same manner as Chilston, before described, down to George Best, esq., of Chilston, who subsequently possessed the same.

The tithes of this manor were given by Eudo Dapifer to Anschetill, archdeacon of Canterbury, who afterwards, with the consent of Eudo, granted them to the priory, on the annual payment of 5s. to the monks of Colchester. Henry de Leiburne, the possessor of this manor, having inspected the charters of his ancestors, confirmed those tithes in pure alms to the church of St. Andrew and the monks of Rochester.

This portion of tithes remained with the priory till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., when it was surrendered into the king's hands, who, in his 33d year, settled the same on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester, where these tithes have continued.

On the intended dissolution of deans and chapters, soon after the death of Charles I., this portion was surveyed by order of the state, in 1649, when it was returned that the tithes in question arose out of the manor of Bugley, together with the tythe of the mill, called Bugley Mill, being of the improved yearly value of £9, which premises had been let by the dean and chapter, in the 10th year of Charles I., to Samuel Hales, esq. for twenty-one years, at the annual rental of two quarters of malt, &c., or 2s. in money; wherefore there remained a clear rent of £5 14 per annum.

There are no parochial charities here. The poor constantly relieved are about forty, casually twenty-five.

Boughton is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Charing. The church, is a handsome building, with a square tower steeple at the west end, and the interior, richly ornamented, being adorned by several monuments of the Wotton family, most of whom lie buried here. There is also a pyramid of black marble, supported by three lions couchant, on a deep base, erected to the memories of Henry lord Stanhope; his widow, Lady Catherine, countess of Chesterfield; her third husband, Daniel O'Neal; as well as several of her children. This mausoleum had been very injudiciously placed within the altar rails, eastward, nearly filling up the whole space, but was subsequently removed, to make room for an altar and railing. In the south chancel is a very ancient figure, in Bethersden marble, of a man in armour, lying cross-legged, bearing his shield and sword; this effigy lies on the pavement, and appears to have been removed from some other part of the church. On the opposite side of the chancel, is the figure of a woman, full as ancient as the former, and of the same marble, but fixed in the pavement. These effigies were, most probably, to the memory of some representatives of the family of the Peyforer's.

The families of the Hales's and Hamilton's, both of Chilston, together with their children, were christened and married in Boughton church, but buried from time to time in that of Lenham.

The church of Boughton has uniformly been esteemed an appendage to the manor, and as such became the property of Sir Horace Mann, bart. In 1578 there were 108 communicants;

at which period this rectory was valued in the king's books at £13 15, the yearly tenths being £1 7 6. In 1640 the estimate was £70, the communicants being 197.

In 1821 there were fifty-two dwellings in the parish of Boughton; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 255, females 220, making a total of 475 souls.

Northward from *Boughton Malherb* lies Lenham, at the foot of the chalk hills, written in Domesday *Lerham* and *Lertham*, no doubt corruptly for *Leanham*, by which name it is called in most of the ancient charters and deeds, as well before as since that period. It assumes its title from the stream that rises in this district, and *ham*, which signifies a town or village.

The *western portion* of this parish is in the lath of *Aylesford*, hundred of *Eyhorne*, and the western *division* of this *county;* calculating from the centre of Chilston house, northward, to the east end of the church, and thence to Warren Street, on the summit of the chalk hills; no other portion of this district occupies a westerly situation: the residue, including that part called East Lenham, is in the lath of Shipway, and hundred of Calehill, being *the eastern division* of this county.

The Parish of Lenham is of large extent, comprising upwards of five miles in length from east to west, and four in breadth from north to south, where it encompasses the whole width of the valley, from the chalk to the quarry hills. It is considered a healthy, though extremely unpleasant situation, in consequence of its soil, which, towards the south and west, mostly consists of a deep sand. Above the hills, northward, are Downe Court and Warren Street; beyond which, the parish extends more than a mile, as far as Ashden and Syndal, in the valley between Hollingborne and Doddington, the country of which is poor, and the soil flinty and barren.

The town of Lenham stands in the valley, between the quarry and chalk hills, being at this part about two miles in width; somewhat more contiguous to the latter, in a damp and moist situation, owing to the springs rising near it, further mention of which will be made hereafter. The district is dull, and little frequented, affording no traffic; nor can it be more appro-

priately described, says Hasted, than in the words of the inhabitants, who, when travellers inquire, in their way through the parish, whether it is Lenham they are traversing, usually return for answer, "*Ah, sir, poor Lenham.*"

The church stands at the south end, and, being westward of the line which separates the two divisions of the county, the town itself, as well as the parish, is esteemed to belong to West Kent; wherefore all the parish business is transacted at the Maidstone Sessions. The market, which was granted to the abbot of St. Augustine's monastery, has been discontinued many years; but, in 1757, an attempt was made to renew it, for the buying and selling of corn and other commodities, when it was ordered by the lord of the manor to be held weekly, but is very little resorted to. The fairs take place yearly, for cattle, in the months of June and October; a market being also held at Sandway, in this parish, every Tuesday, until Christmas.

Near the foot of the chalk hills, lie the three estates of Shelve, on the opposite or southern part of the parish, where the soil is mostly a barren sand, there being several small heaths or forstals through this district; the high road from Ashford runs over Lenham, formerly called Royton heath, and by Chilston Park pales and Sandway, over Bigon heath, towards Leeds castle and Maidstone. Southward of this heath, the parish extends westward, including within its bounds the estate of Ham, the mansion of which was rebuilt in a handsome style some years back; hence, southward, it stretches to Runham place, Platt heath, and Leverton Street; and, at the boundary of the same, near the quarry hills, joins Boughton Malherb.

The western and south-east parts of this parish are watered by two streams; for, at the eastern extremity of the town of Lenham, at Streetwell, there rises a spring, said to be the head of the river Stour, which flowing thence southward, by Royton chapel at about a mile distant from its source, receives into its current two other smaller streams from the north-west, which rise in the grounds at Chilston, at a small distance from each other; and, then flowing in one stream through the hamlet of Water Street, south-eastward, the waters turn a mill in their way to *Little Chart*, and thence pursue their course to Ashford and Canterbury.

A head of one of the branches of the river Medway likewise rises at Ewell, adjoining Bigon heath, in the western part of this

parish, whence it is frequently called the river Len. This stream then directs its course first westward, then northward by Runham, and so on to Holme mill, in Harrietsham, in its way to Leeds castle and the main river at Maidstone.

Lenham has been supposed by several of our learned antiquaries, among whom are Camden, Lambard, and Gale, to have constituted the Roman station, mentioned in the second Iter of Antoninus, by the name of *Durolevum*, corruptly so called, as it is said, for *Durolenum*, the latter appellation, in the British language, signifying *the water Lenum;* which induced those writers, combined with the situation, to conjecture this spot the station above mentioned.

Camden is further confirmed in this opinion from the place being situated on a circular way of the Romans, which formerly, as Higden, the chronicler of Chester, affirms, ran from Dover, through the middle of Kent.

The *Aqua Lena*, or the springs at Streetwell, so called perhaps from the *Strata* of the Romans, which led hither, is imagined to have been meant for the water Lenum, and that it might have conferred its name to this station; indeed, Roman remains have been from time to time discovered from Keston, by Comb Bank, Stone Street, Oldberry Camp, Ofham, Barming, Maidstone, and Boxley, in a continued and almost strait line, to within a few miles of this place and Charing.

But, as no Roman antiquities have ever been discovered at Lenham, Mr. Somner and others were induced to look elsewhere for this station. The above learned antiquary, as well as Mr. Burton and Dr. Thorpe, have therefore fixed it at or near Newington, on the high road from Rochester to Canterbury; near which site vast quantities of urns and other relics of Roman antiquity have been dug up at various periods. Mr. Talbot hesitates between Sittingborne and Charing; and Dr. Stukely, changing his opinion, from having first adopted Newington, afterwards adheres to this latter spot.

Dr. Horsley observes that, should he abandon the idea of Lenham, and suppose it only to have been a *notitia* way, he should transfer this station to the north side of the present high London road to Dover; and conjecture it to have been a short and direct route, like that of Tripontium, in the sixth *Iter* of Antoninus, the distance in either case requiring the excursion to

be made about Sittingborne, or perhaps Milton. But, should this station be transferred to Faversham, in the vicinity of that place, as well as at Judde's Hill, near Ospringe or Davington, about a mile north-east of the same, many Roman coins, urns, and other relics of antiquity, have been there also found; and at the former still remains, at the back of Judde's house, a small distance north of the high road, and within the wood, the *vestigia* of a strong Roman work; neither does there require any transposition or alteration of numbers in the copies of Antoninus's Itinerary, as the distances will, in every instance, correspond with them.

However, after every argument that can be adduced, the whole is so much involved in conjecture, as appears from each of those learned men having altered the distances in the Itinerary in favor of his own hypothesis, that it is perhaps best to leave it to the reader's own judgment to fix these stations as he may conceive most feasible.

In the year 804, Cenulf king of Mercia, and Cudred king of Kent, granted THIS MANOR, afterwards distinguished by the name of *West Lenham*, to Wernod, abbot of St. Augustine's, near Canterbury, by the description of certain lands, called Lenham, containing twenty plough lands, and twelve denns, bearing acorns, in the Weald; which estate was augmented by Athelwolf king of the West Saxons and of Kent, who, in consideration of 2100 marks of silver, granted to the abbot five plough lands, at Lenham, then denominated Estlenham, lying between the place called Scelfe, eastward, and Lenham, towards the west; and, in 850, he made a further gift to the abbot, of forty tenements, with lands at Lenham, in pure and perpetual alms.

What part of these estates continued in the possession of the abbot and convent of St. Augustine's at the general survey of Domesday, is stated under the entry of their lands and estates, though it does not appear to amount to so large a quantity as is described in the above donation; it is therefore probable, that the rapacious Bishop of Bayeux wrested some of these lands from the owners, when he held property in this parish.

The possessions of the abbot and convent were afterwards increased by Kings Edward I. and II., who granted them licence to purchase property in this parish; and there were

several different lands given to them, among which were those called Sornden, on condition that they should pay yearly the singular rental of one custard in the churchyard of Lenham.

In the 8th year of Richard II., the temporalities of the abbot in Lenham, with appurtenances, were valued at £54 14 10 per annum; at which time he possessed in this parish, as appears by an admeasurement then made, 936 acres of arable land and wood.

In the *Iter* of H. de Stanton and his sociates Justices Itinerant, under Edward II., the abbot was summoned, by *quo warranto*, to show why he claimed sundry liberties therein, mentioned in the manors of Lenham, among others, and *free warren* in all his demesne lands, with view of *frank pledge*. The abbot pleaded that those liberties had been granted by the charters of King John and the succeeding monarchs, to the abbot and convent, in pure and perpetual alms; that those charters had been all allowed in the *Iter* of J. de Berewick, under Edward I., and likewise in the reign of Edward II., before Henry de Stanton and his sociates Justices Itinerant, in this county.

King Edward III., in 1330, exempted the men and tenants of the manor of Lenham from their attendance at the *turne* of the sheriff, heretofore made by the borsholder, with four men of each borough, within the same; and directed his writ, that for the future, they should be allowed to perform the same, with one only out of each.

And by the charter of *Inspeximus*, in the 36th year of the above reign, that prince confirmed to the monastery all the manors and possessions, with the several grants of liberties and confirmations made by the several kings his predecessors, among which are those above specified. Henry VI. subsequently confirmed the several liberties granted to this monastery, as well as *free warren*, and one fair, at Lenham, on the feast of St. Augustine the apostle of Britain.

The manor remained part of the possessions of the monastery till its final dissolution, under Henry VIII., when this great abbey, with all its revenues, were surrendered to the king.

The manor of Lenham remained vested in the crown, till Queen Elizabeth granted it to William Cecil lord Burleigh, lord high treasurer, and her chief minister of state; to whose prudence

and wisdom in council, the blessings this kingdom enjoyed during that reign, were chiefly to be attributed.

He alienated this estate, under that princess, to Thomas Wilford, esq., of Cranbrook, whose grandson, Henry Wilford, esq., at the latter end of the reign of James I., conveyed it to Anthony Brown viscount Montague, who died possessed of this manor in 1629. His grandson, Henry, with the concurrence of his son and heir, Anthony, alienated this property to the Hon. Elizabeth Hamilton, widow of James Hamilton, of Tyrone, in Ireland, and a baronet of Nova Scotia, who was the fourth son of James first earl of Abercorn, and bore for his arms *Gules, three cinque foils pierced, ermine, quartered with argent, a ship having sails furled, with a proper difference;* these being the armorial bearings of the earls of Abercorn. She was the eldest daughter of John lord Colepeper, and, surviving her husband who died in 1673, resided at Chilston, in the adjoining parish of Boughton, which she had also purchased. That lady died in 1709, and was buried at Hollingbourne, leaving two sons surviving; James earl of Abercorn, and William Hamilton, of Chilston; to the latter of whom she gave by will the manor of Lenham, with the rest of her estates, in this parish and neighbourhood. He was one of the five Kentish gentlemen, who, in 1701, delivered to the House of Commons a petition from the deputy lieutenants, justices, grand jury, and freeholders of this county, praying that the House would turn their loyal addresses into bills of supply. That petition being voted insolent and seditious, they were ordered into the custody of the serjeant at arms, and conveyed prisoners to the Gate-house, where they remained till the end of the sessions. The other four petitioners were William Colepeper, Thomas Colepeper, David Polhill, and Justinian Champneys. This event having created a great sensation at the period, we insert the annexed note in order to elucidate the subject in question.*

* It was in the midst of those clamours, that echoed through the kingdom in 1701, and the universal dissatisfaction of the people at the proceedings of the House of Commons, &c. that the gentlemen of Kent petitioned the representatives of the people in a very humble manner, to "have regard to the voice of the nation, and provide effectually for its religion and safety," &c.

It was signed by all the deputy-lieutenants there present, above twenty justices of the peace, all the grand jury, and other freeholders.

By Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Hollingbourne, he had several children, of whom John Hamilton, the eldest son, resided at Chilston, where he was sheriff in 1719. He, with his eldest son, joined in the sale of this manor to Thomas Best, esq. of Chilston, who, dying in 1793, gave it by will, among his other estates, to his nephew, George Best, esq. of Chilston, who ultimately possessed this estate.

A court-leet and court-baron is held for this manor.

ROYTON, otherwise *Rayton*, is a manor in this parish, situated a small distance eastward from Chilston, the mansion of which had a free chapel annexed to it, the ruins whereof were still remaining some years back.

In the year 1259, under Henry III. this manor was in the possession of Simon Fitzalan; at which time a final agreement

This petition was offered to the House on the 8th of May, 1701; the gentlemen who delivered it, and owned it at the bar of the House being Mr William Colepepper, Mr. Thomas Colepepper, Mr. David Polhill, Mr. Justinian Champneys, and Mr. William Hamilton; for so were found all their names written in the votes, without the addition of Esq., though four of them were justices of the peace, and two deputy-lieutenants of the county. Concerning the petition, the House came to this resolution: that it was scandalous, insolent, and seditious, &c. The five gentlemen they ordered to be taken into the custody of the sergeant at arms, when the treatment they experienced from him was very singular, and testified that they were under the high displeasure of the House; for, when he accidentally saw two of them talk together, he drew his sword upon his deputy for permitting it; and, upon one of those gentlemen demanding a copy of their commitment, which they conceived they were entitled to by virtue of the Habeas Corpus Act, and he refusing, the gentleman said he hoped the law would do him justice, when his reply was, "that he cared not a fig for the law." The reverence of the law was fallen very low indeed when one, who had the honour of being a servant to the House of Commons, presumed to make so bold with it. However, this speech was of a piece with the declaration he had made to these gentlemen before, namely, "that he had an unbounded liberty of using them at discretion, that he could confine them at pleasure, consign them to dungeons, lay them underground," &c.

Indeed, from the misery and filthiness of their confinement, it seemed that the power of the inquisition was then subsisting in the nominally free country of England. The people, however, being instructed, and taking warning, there came a memorial, enclosed in the following billet, directed to Robert Harley, esq. Speaker of the House of Commons, couched as follows:

Mr. SPEAKER,

"This memorial you are charged with in behalf of many thousands of the good people of England.

"There is neither Popish, Jacobite, seditious, court, or party, interest, concerned in it; but honesty and truth.

"You are commanded, by two hundred thousand Englishmen, to deliver it to the House of Commons, and to inform them that it is no banter, but serious truth, and a

was ratified in the king's court at Westminster, between Roger, abbot of St. Augustine's, and the said Simon, concerning the customs and services, which the abbot demanded of him, for his free tenement, which he held of that ecclesiastic in Royton, viz. one mark of silver annually, and suit at the court of Lenham; which suit the abbot released to him on his agreeing to pay the rent above mentioned, and suit at the court of St. Augustine's, at Canterbury. He was succeeded by Robert de Royton, who most probably assumed his name from his possessions at this place. The latter founded a free chapel here, and annexed it to the mansion, which thence acquired the name of Royton chapel.

It continued in the above name till the reign of Henry VI. when, by an only daughter, the property was conveyed in marriage to James Dryland, esq. of Davington, whose daughter and

serious regard to it is expected; nothing but justice, and their duty, is required; and it is required by them who have both a right to require, and power to compel, viz. the people of England.

"We could have come to the House strong enough to oblige them to hear us, but we have avoided any tumults, not desiring to embroil, but to save our native country.

"If you refuse to communicate it to them, you will find cause in a short time to repent it."

This was not delivered by a woman, as was said, but by the very person who wrote it, guarded by about sixteen gentlemen of quality; who, if any notice had been taken of him, were ready to have carried him off by force.

The memorial, among other things, contained a claim of right under seven heads, of which the three former ran thus: "we do hereby claim and declare, first, that it is the undoubted right of the people of England, in case their representatives in parliament do not proceed according to their duty and the people's interest, to inform them of their dislike, disown their actions, and direct them to such things as they think fit, either by petition, address, proposal, memorial, or any other peaceable way. Secondly, that the House of Commons, separately, and otherwise than by a Bill legally passed into an Act, has no legal power to suspend or dispense with the laws of the land, any more than the king has by his prerogative. Thirdly, that the House of Commons has no legal power to imprison any person, or commit him to the custody of sergeants, or otherwise, (their own members excepted,) but ought to address the king, to cause any person, on good grounds, to be apprehended; which person, so apprehended, ought to have the benefit of the Habeas Corpus Act, and be brought to trial by due course of law." After other claims, it concluded: "Thus, gentlemen, you have your duty laid before you, which it is hoped you will think of: but, if you continue to neglect it, you may expect to be treated according to the resentment of an injured nation; Englishmen are no more to be slaves to parliaments than to kings. Our name is LEGION, and we are MANY."

Such was the spirit of those who may be called our immediate ancestors! and it stands recorded in our history, that the members of the House of Commons were so intimidated by this remonstrance that they instantly began to alter their measures.

sole heir, Constance, entitled her husband, Sir Thomas Walsingham, to its possession. He died in the reign of Edward IV. when one of his descendants, under Henry VIII., alienated this manor to Edward Myllys, who did homage to the abbot of St. Augustine for the same, as half a knight's fee, which he had purchased in Royton, near Lenham. It was soon afterwards sold to Robert Atwater, who leaving two daughters and coheirs, Mary, the youngest, carried it, with other estates at Charing and elsewhere in this neighbourhood, to Robert Honywood, esq. of Henewood, in Postling.

He afterwards resided at Pett, in Charing, being part of his wife's inheritance, and dying in 1576, was buried in Lenham church, bearing for his arms those of Honywood, *with a crescent gules, for difference.* He left a numerous issue by his wife, who survived him nearly forty-four years, when she dying in 1620, in the ninety-third year of her age, was interred near him, though a monument to her memory was erected at Marks hall, in Essex. She had, as it is said, at her decease, lawfully descended from her, 367 children; sixteen of her own, 114 grandchildren, 228 in the third generation, and nine in the fourth.

The eldest son, Robert Honywood, of Charing, and afterwards of Marks hall, in Essex, was twice married; first, to Dorothy, daughter of John Crook, LL.D., by whom he had one son, Sir Robert Honywood, of Charing, and one daughter. By his second marriage he had several sons and daughters, the eldest of whom, Thomas, was of Marks hall, above mentioned.

Sir Robert, at his death, devised the manor of Royton to Dorothy, his daughter by his first wife. His surviving son, Anthony, was of Royton, of which estate he died possessed in 1682, leaving an only daughter, Dorothy, who carried it in marriage to Richard Crispe, gent. of Maidstone, in whose descendants it continued down to William Crispe, gent., of Royton. He dying in 1761, devised this property by will to his surviving wife, Elizabeth, for her life; and the fee of the same to his nephew, Samuel Belcher, who dying unmarried and intestate, his interest in the same descended to his only brother, Peter Belcher, who by will left it, in 1772, to his brother-in-law, Mr. John Foster, in fee. Mrs. Elizabeth Crispe, before mentioned, died in 1778, and this estate then went into the possession of Mr. John Forster, who afterwards sold it to Thomas Best, esq.

of Chilston; on whose demise, in 1793, it passed by his will, among other estates, to his nephew, George Best, esq. of Chilston.

Runham is a manor situated at the south-west extremity of this parish, which, with the mansion called Runham place, formerly belonged to the family of the Bunce's, of Otterden.

Stephen Bunce, son of James, of Otterden, died possessed of this estate in 1634. He was originally of Boughton Malherb, and his eldest son, Mathew, inherited this manor, which he afterwards sold to one Burton; from whom it desended to his grandson, Mr. Samuel Burton, who resided here. He married Anne Belcher, who joined with him in the sale of this estate, a fine having been levied for that purpose, to Thomas Best, esq. of Chilston, who continued in possession of the same till the year 1774, when Samuel Burton, the youngest and only surviving child of the above marriage, claimed this estate by virtue of an entail made, and, by a proof of his mother's marriage, obtained a verdict in his favor, upon which he took possession, and afterwards sold it to Mr. Thomas Best, above mentioned, the former purchaser; by whose will it went, with his other estates, in 1793, to his nephew, George Best, esq. of Chilston.

Ashden, formerly called *Esseden*, is a small manor in the northern part of this parish, which, at the latter end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was the property of Edward Jackman, esq. of Hornchurch, in Essex. He, in the reign of James I., passed it away to Oliver Style, esq., of Watringbury, whose son, Thomas, was created a baronet, and died in 1637, leaving this manor to his only son and successor, Sir Thomas Style, bart. The latter dying in 1702, an agreement was entered into by his heirs, for a division of his estates among them, which was confirmed by an Act passed in the reign of Queen Anne. In the partition alluded to, the manor of Ashden was allotted, with Frinsted and other estates, to Margaret, his only daughter; who, in 1716, alienated it to Mr. Abraham Tilghman, whose son, Abraham, of Frinsted, died in 1779, leaving, by Olivia, daughter of Charles Finch, esq. of Chatham, one daughter, his heir, married to the Rev. Mr. Pierrepont Cremp, of Frinsted; who died in 1797, when his heirs became entitled to this manor.

The remaining or north-east part of this parish is situated within the *lath of Shipway*, and *hundred of Calehill*, wherein is the manor of East Lenham. Although the abbot

and convent of St. Augustine's possessed an estate in East Lenham, consisting of five plough lands, by the gift of King Athelwolf, A.D. 839, as has been already mentioned, yet the manor itself never belonged to that monastery, but was given, in the year 961, by Queen Ediva, mother of Kings Edmund and Edred, to Christ church, in Canterbury, free from all secular services, except the repair of bridges, and erection of fortifications.

Archbishop Lanfranc, who came to the see of Canterbury in 1070, gave this manor to one Godifrid, surnamed Dapifer, who held it of him by knight's service, it being so entered accordingly in Domesday record.

It was afterwards held of the archbishop, in the same manner, by knight's service, by the family of Lenham, which derived its name from the possessions here, and bore for arms the same as those of Peyforer. Roger de Lenham held this estate in the time of King John, as appears by the returns made to the king's treasurer, in the 12th and 13th years of that reign, of all those who held by knight's service and *in capite*. Nicholas Lenham, his descendant, held it in the ensuing reign of Henry III., in the 35th year of which he paid fine to the king for a charter of liberties for his lands in this county.

John de Lenham held it in like manner of the archbishop, in the reign of King Edward I., of whom it was again held by Roger de Handlo, whose descendant, Simon de Handlo, held it in the 20th year of Edward III., holding it of the archbishop as half a knight's fee.

In later times, the manor of East Lenham was in possession of the Horne's; but if descended from those of Horne's Place, in Kenardinton, we have not been able to ascertain.

John Horne was of East Lenham, in the reigns of Henry V. and VI., in whose family it continued till John Horne, gent., of East Lenham, leaving an only daughter and heir, Alice, she carried it in marriage to John Proffit, gent., of Barcombe, in Sussex. His sole daughter and heir, Elizabeth, widow of Richard Manfield, gent., of Middlesex, entitled her second husband, John Chauncey, esq., of Hertfordshire, to this manor, of which he died possessed in 1546, and was buried in the church of Sawbridgeworth. He was ancestor of Sir Henry Chauncey, sergeant at law, the historian, who bore for his arms *Gules, a cross patonee, argent, on a chief, azure, a lion passant, or,* which he

quartered with those of Horne: his eldest son having taken upon himself the habit of a Carthusian monk, Henry, the second son, became possessed of all his father's estates.

This manor then passed by sale into the family of the Knatchbull's, of Mersham-hatch, in this county; of which line Sir Norton Knatchbull was created a baronet in 1641; and in his descendants it continued down to Sir Edward Knatchbull, of Mersham-hatch.

THERE WAS AN ESTATE, formerly part of the demesnes of this manor, which was for several generations in the possession of a family of the name of Hussey. Henry so called had a charter of *free warren* for his lands at Chilston, East Lenham, and Stourmouth, in the 55th year of Henry III.; and from him the property of this estate descended down to Henry Hussey, who, about the latter end of the reign of Henry VIII. passed it away to John Parkhurst, descended from an ancient family of that name in Norfolk, one of whom, John, was bishop of Norwich in 1560. His descendant, Sir William, in the reign of Charles I., alienated this estate to Mr. Wood, of London, merchant, who possessed it at the Restoration of King Charles II. From that name it passed by sale to Edward Hales, esq., of Chilston, whose three daughters and coheirs, in 1698, conveyed it to the Hon. Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton; since which period it passed, in the same manner as Chilston, in Boughton Malherb, to George Best, esq.

ARCHBISHOP LANFRANC, in the time of the Conqueror, gave the *tithes of his whole manor of Lenham,* which he had previously bestowed upon Godfrid, to the priory of St. Gregory, in Canterbury, which had been founded by him in 1084. The above gift was confirmed by Archbishop Hubert, among the rest of the possessions of that priory; where these tithes remained till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., when the whole was surrendered into the king's hands. These tithes, with the site of the monastery, and most of the possessions of St. Gregory's priory, were then granted to the archbishop of Canterbury, in exchange, in pursuance of an Act which had passed for that purpose.

The parsonage of East Lenham thus becoming part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, was let by the prelate, among the rest of the revenues of the priory of St. Gregory, by one great lease, for twenty-one years, at the annual rental of £55.

In 1643, Sir Robert Honywood, of Charing, was head lessee of these premises. Philip earl of Chesterfield, afterwards held them, as heir to the Wotton's; at whose decease, in 1773, the lease was sold by his executors to George Gipps, esq. of Canterbury, M.P. for that city. However, Sir Edward Knatchbull, bart. owner of East Lenham manor, was the lessee under him, for the parsonage of East Lenham, at the yearly rent of £17.

THERE ARE THREE DIFFERENT MANORS in the north-east part of this parish, called, in the time of the Saxons, *Scelfe*, afterwards *Selve*, and now *Shelve*, distinguished from each other by their different situations.

These manors were part of those possessions given by the Conqueror to Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands they were entered in Domesday record.

The first of these estates seems intended for that which is now known by the name of *Old Shelve;* the second, for that called *West Shelve;* and the last, for *Cobham*, otherwise *East Shelve.*

After the disgrace of the above dignitary, THE MANOR OF WEST, or NEW SHELVE, so called from its situation, and to distinguish it from the adjoining manor of *Old Shelve*, became part of the possessions of the family of the Criol's, one of which line, Bertram, held it in the reign of Henry III., in whose descendants it continued down to John de Criol. He dying in the reign of King Edward I., Joan, his sister, became his heir, and carried this manor, among the rest of her inheritance, in marriage to Sir Richard Rokesle, seneschal and governor of Poitou and Montreuil, in Picardy, who left two daughters coheirs, of whom Agnes, the eldest, married Thomas de Poynings; and Joan, the youngest, first, to Hugh de Patteshull, and secondly, to Sir William le Baud. They did not, however, inherit this manor, which descended to a younger branch of the family of Rokesle; when it afterwards, on failure of issue, devolved, as the next of kin, by the above marriage, to the family of the Poyning's. In that name it continued till Sir Edward Poyning's, dying in the reign of Henry VIII. without ligitimate issue, or even collateral kindred, this manor became escheated to the crown.

The above monarch soon after granted this manor to John Millys, who died possessed of it in the 17th of that reign, the same being held by knight's service of the abbot of St. Au-

gustine, in right of his abbey. He was succeeded by James Millys, his son and heir, by whose only daughter, Joan, this manor of West Shelve went in marriage to Nicholas Darell, second son of Sir James Darell, of Calehill, who afterwards resided here. He died in 1564, leaving two sons; of whom, Anthony, the second, seems to have at length possessed this estate; when his daughter, Anne, conveyed it to her husband, William Wilkinson, who died in 1618, and was buried in this church. He was son and heir of Richard, who was one of the clerks in Chancery, and owner of Waslingbury manor, in this county; and in his descendants it continued down to John Wilkinson, esq. who died possessed of the same in 1713, without surviving issue.

It then became the property of Mr. John Dering, of Chalk, on his marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of Francis Milles, esq. of the Inner Temple, who, by a deed, in 1713, had adopted him as heir, and settled this manor, with his other estates in this parish, to him and his issue by her in tail male. Mr. John Dering was descended from John, of Egerton, sixth son of John Dering, esq., of Surrenden, in the reign of Henry VIII., by Margaret, sister and heir of Thomas Brent, esq. of Charing. He was of West Shelve, and died possessed of this manor.

On his death, Henry, his eldest son, succeeded to this manor, who was of Ashford, in this county. He married Hester Wightwick, of New Romney, by whom he left eight children, and, cutting off the entail of this estate, devised the manor of West Shelve in equal shares amongst his children, who became entitled to the same. John and George Dering alienated their respective interests to their uncle, Mr. Edward Dering, of Doddington, who dying in 1786, his widow, Mrs. Dering, became the possessor. The family of Dering bear for their arms *Or, a saltier sable, a crescent, for difference.*

A court-leet was formerly held for this manor, which has long been discontinued. At *New Shelve house,* in 1775, there was preserved a curfew, or coverfew, similar to one that belonged to Mr. Gostling, the historian, of Canterbury, of which a plate may be seen in the Antiquarian Repertory, vol. 1, p. 89. This curious relic had been in the manor-house here time out of mind, and always known by the above name. The curfew bell is still rung at eight o'clock, in some market-towns and places of resort.

The manor of Old Shelve lies adjoining to the last manor, eastward. It was formerly called Middle, otherwise Red Shelve, and after the disgrace of the bishop of Bayeux, went into the possession of a family which assumed that name. Anusius de Selves held it in the reign of Henry III., and had license to change his service from sergeantry to knight's service. His descendant, William, paid aid for this manor in the 20th of Edward III., as half a knight's fee, which he then held of the Earl of Albemarle, and the latter of the king. It afterwards passed into the family of the Poyning's; and became escheated to the crown, in the same manner as that of West Shelve, on the death of Sir Edward Poynings without heirs, in the 14th of Henry VIII. Soon after it was granted, with that manor, to John Millys, and then passed to William Wilkinson, one of whose descendants conveyed it by sale to the Plomer's; from which name it was alienated to Dr. Ludwell, of Oriel college, Oxford. His widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Ludwell, gave it by will to Benjamin Tribe, esq., with an injunction that he should assume the name of Poole, for which he obtained an Act, in the 5th year of George III.

Benjamin Tribe Poole, esq. was afterwards of Charing, and, in 1772, sold this estate to Mr. John Winder, together with that of Marshall, adjoining the same.

The manor of East Shelve, otherwise Shelve Cobham, lies at the base of the chalk hills, eastward of that last described.

After the disgrace of the bishop of Bayeux, this estate devolved to the family of the Cobham's, of Cobham, in this county. Henry left three sons, in the reign of King John, who succeeded him at Cobham: William, called Cobham, of Aldington, under Henry III., inherited this manor, and died in the 14th of Edward II.; and Reginald, his nephew, son of his eldest brother John, succeeded him in the possession of the same. He lived in the reign of Edward II., and left by Joan his wife, daughter and heir of William de Hever, a son, Reginald de Cobham; in whose descendants, of the name of Reginald, likewise seated at Sterborough castle, in Surrey, this manor continued down to Reginald lord Cobham, of Sterborough, who died possessed of the same about the 24th year of Henry VI., leaving Sir Thomas Cobham, his then only son, his heir. He likewise died, in the 11th year of Edward IV., possessed of this estate, which, from

the length of time the family had possessed it, was generally known by the name of Shelve Cobham, or East Shelve. His only daughter and heir, Anne, carried it in marriage to Sir Edward Borough, of Gainsborough, in Lincolnshire, whose son and heir, Thomas lord Burgh, procured the disgavelment of his lands, by an Act under Henry VIII. His son, William lord Burgh, in the 12th of Queen Elizabeth, sold this manor to John Pakenham, who, in the 35th year of the same reign, alienated it to the Boteler's; in which line it remained till the 5th year of Charles I. It then passed by sale to Sir John Melton, whose son, soon after the death of that monarch, sold it to Mr. Solomon Adye; from whom it passed to the name of Wilkinson, whose descendant, John, died possessed of it, as well as New Shelve, in 1713, without surviving issue. Since that period, it has devolved in the same succession of ownership as the latter manor, to the description of which the reader is referred.

The manor of Downe, or *Downe Court*, as it is now generally called, is situated in the northern part of this parish, on the summit of the chalk hills. In the reign of Henry III., it had owners who assumed their surname from the same. Hamo de la Dune then held it as half a knight's fee; as did Laurence, heir of Robert de la Downe, in the 20th of Edward III., when he paid aid for it as half a knight's fee. In that name it continued to John Downe, who resided here in the 6th year of Edward IV., leaving two sons, John and Thomas Downe, to both of whom, by will, he devised this estate, which had then entirely lost the reputation of being a manor. How the property then passed, we cannot ascertain, but Robert Atwater, of Royton, in this parish, died possessed of it in 1565, whose daughter and coheir, Mary, carried it, with other estates in this parish and neighbourhood, in marriage to Robert Honywood, esq. of Postling. He died in 1576, leaving a numerous issue; of whom, Robert, of Charing and Mark's hall, in Essex, the eldest son, succeeded him in this estate; and in his descendants it continued down to Philip Honywood, esq., of Mark's hall, a general in the army, who married Elizabeth Wastell, and died in 1785, giving this estate to his nephew, Filmer Honywood, esq. the eldest son of the late Sir John, by his second wife, Dorothy Filmer. He was of Mark's hall, in Essex, and unmarried, having been M.P. for this county in two successive Parliaments.

At some distance north-westward from Downe Court, in the valley, on the east side of the road leading from Doddington to Hollingborne hill, at the extreme bounds of the parish, lies an estate called Syndall, but more properly *Syndane*, which, as appears by the evidences belonging to the same, as early as the reign of Kings John and Henry III., was the inheritance of a family of that surname, who were gentlemen of considerable note in these parts. They did not, however, long retain this property, for, in the 23d year of King Edward III., Fulk de Peyforer was possessed of it; from which name it was alienated, before the end of that reign, to one Henman, in whose descendants it continued down to Allen Henman, who sold the mansion house, and principal part of the estate, in the reign of Queen Anne, to Sir Robert Furnese, bart. He survived him but a short time, and dying abroad, in 1735, under age, and unmarried, his estates, by virtue of the limitation in his grandfather's will, became vested in his three sisters, as the daughters and coheirs of his father, Sir Robert Furnese, in equal shares and proportions, in *coparcenary in tail general;* and afterwards, by a decree of the court of Chancery, in the reign of George II., a writ of partition was agreed to by them, which was confirmed by an Act passed the next year. By that instrument this farm of Syndall, among other premises, was allotted to Selina, who married Edward Dering, esq.; and he continued in possession of this estate till the year 1779, and then conveyed it by sale to Mr. William Hills, of Boughton Blean, in this county.

Lenham is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a large handsome building, with a square tower at the west end. It consists of two aisles and two chancels. On the north side of the high chancel, in the hollow of the wall, is a figure in long robes, lying at full length, apparently very ancient, probably that of Thomas de Apulderfield, who lived in the reign of Edward III., and was buried in this church. At the west end of the chancel, are sixteen stalls, eight on either side, of different dimensions, for the use of the monks of St. Augustine's, when they visited their estate in this parish, as well as for such of the clergy as should be present at the services of the church; and, at a small distance from these stalls, on the south side, is a confessional chair of stone.

The pulpit is octagon, curiously carved in each compartment. Several of the family of the Honywood's are interred here, with memorials for many others too numerous for insertion. One is to commemorate the Honourable John Hamilton, and Thomas Horne, esq. of East Lenham. At the east end of the north aisle is a tomb of Bethersden marble, bearing on the shield *six cross crosslets, fitchee;* at the south end of the same is a *cross crosslet, fitchee,* on one side of which are *two crescents, one above the other;* and on the opposite side a *bugle horn, hanging by a string on the cross crosslets.* This tomb, however different the arms may be from those of this family quartered by Chauncy, it is not improbable was erected to the memory of Thomas Horne, esq., said to have existed in St. Edmund's chancel, which might be in this part of the church. Weever states that, Valentine Burnett, and Cecile, his wife, and also William Maries, esquire to Henry V., lie buried here, but the statement is not correct, as they were interred at Preston, near Faversham.

The church of Lenham, as an appendage to the manor, became part of the possessions of the monastery of St. Augustine above mentioned, to which it was appropriated by pope Celestine III., in the reign of Richard I., towards replenishing the furniture of their refectory, from time to time, which was afterwards confirmed by several popes, and archbishops of Canterbury.

The abbot and convent of St. Augustine obtained several grants and extensive privileges from the popes, among which was an exemption from all archiepiscopal, or any ecclesiastical jurisdiction whatsoever, and subjecting them and all their possessions solely and immediately to the see of Rome. The abbot, in consequence, instituted many new deaneries, and apportioned the several churches belonging to his monastery to each of them, according to their vicinity; one of which was the deanery of Lenham. This church he ordained should be the head of the deanery, and he appointed a dean to each, with officials and consistories, exacting an oath of canonical obedience from each of them. This proceeding raised great contests and animosities between the archbishops and the abbots, each appealing in his turn to the court of Rome; when, after more than five years' dispute, the determination of their differences was intrusted, by pope Boniface VIII. in the year 1300, to the abbots of Westminster Waltham, and St. Edmund's, in consequence of which, after nearly

eight years' controversy, and great sums of money being spent on both sides, the abbot, three years afterwards, was deprived of these exemptions, and, by the pope's bull, declared to be subject to the archbishop's jurisdiction in all matters whatsoever, in like manner as heretofore; which entirely dissolved this new deanery, as well as all the others that had been instituted.

The church and vicarage of Lenham remained part of the possessions of the monastery of St. Augustine, till their final dissolution in the 30th of Henry VIII., when they were, with all the revenues, surrendered into the king's hands.

The rectory and advowson remained but a short period with the king, as he granted it the same year to Sir Anthony St. Leger, at the yearly rent of £7. From the latter they descended to Sir Warham, who, in the reign of Elizabeth, sold them to Francis Barnham, esq., and he, in the 21st of that reign, alienated this rectory and manor to Robert Honywood, junior, the same being held of the queen *in capite*.

Henry Wilford, esq. possessed this rectory and advowson under James I.; at the latter end of whose reign, he alienated them to Anthony Browne viscount Montague, since which they have had the same owners as the manor of Lenham, both descending to George Best, esq. of Chilston.

In the 8th of Richard II. the church of Lenham was valued at £23 6 8.

The vicarage was estimated in the king's books at £13 15 2½, the yearly tenths being £1 7 6½.

In 1640 the estimate was £80, communicants 400.

In 1821, there were 300 dwellings in the parish of Lenham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 1004, females 955, making a total of 1959 souls.

HARRIETSHAM is the next parish south-westward from Lenham, the manor of Hollingborne claiming over a portion of the same.

It is situated at the base of the great ridge of chalk hills, and is nearly three miles across either way. Although healthy, it is rather unpleasantly situated, from the nature of the soil, as, above the hill, where it extends but a short way, it consists of a red earth, covered with flints, being extremely unfertile.

On the summit of Stede hill is Harrietsham place, commanding a beautiful and extensive prospect over the country to the southward. At a small distance below the foot of the hill stands the church, with the parsonage adjoining, and about a quarter of a mile farther is Harrietsham street, and, contiguous, a pleasure-ground belonging to Harrietsham place, in which is a summer-house, shrubbery, and plantation, with a large sheet of water, and several cascades, comprising, in the whole, six acres. Through the above street, the high road leads from Lenham, through the hamlet of Holmehill green, and thence by Leeds park, towards Maidstone. There the soil becomes sandy, and, as it extends southward, mingles with the quarry or rock stones; in this part of the parish the Lenham rivulet flows on westward towards the Medway, and, at Maidstone, receives into its current several smaller streams, which rise at the bottom of the chalk hills, though at some distance from each other. The rivulet then turns in its way Holme mill, and about half a mile southward thence is Farborne, and the heath so called, beyond which it extends into the eastern part of Kingswood, where it joins Ulcomb.

There is a fair held annually on the 5th of July, in the old fair field, at the court lodge, for horses, cattle, and pedlary.

This place was given immediately after the fatal battle of Hastings, by the Conqueror, to Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record. Upon the disgrace of that prelate, this manor became part of the possessions of the family of Crescie, or Cressi, one of whom, Roger de Cressi, appears to have held it, in the beginning of the reign of Henry III. of the honour of Peverell, as one knight's fee, it being then valued at £20.

He was succeeded by his son Hugh de Cressi, who died in the 47th year of the above reign, leaving Stephen de Cressi his next heir. After that period this estate seems to have devolved to the hands of the crown, as King Henry III. in his 48th year, directed his writ to the sheriff of Kent, to deliver this manor to his niece Isabella, the illegitimate daughter of Richard earl of Cornwall, a younger brother of King John, and then wife of Maurice lord Berkley, for her support, her husband having forfeited his estates by associating with the rebellious barons, and she being at that time in great distress and

poverty. This event appears to have occurred during the minority of Stephen de Cressi above mentioned, who died possessed of the property in the 52d year of that reign, holding it *in capite* by knight's service.

Soon after, this manor seems to have been divided, when that portion which retained the name of the *manor of Harrietsham*, passed into the possession of the family of the Northwood's, in Milton.

Roger de Northwood died under Edward I. holding this manor of the king *in capite*, by the service of half a knight's fee, and the yearly rental of nineteen shillings, payable thence to the prior and convent of Christ church, Canterbury. His son, Sir John de Northwood, changed the tenure of his lands from gavelkind to knight's service, and in the 21st of the above reign claimed *free warren*, and other privileges of a manor here, before the justices itinerant; who afterwards, together with his grandson, accompanied King Edward in his victorious expedition into Scotland, and was sheriff of this county several times, having been summoned to parliament among the barons of the realm. He died in the 13th year of Edward II.

By the inquisition then taken, he was found to hold *two parts of this manor in capite*, by the service of two parts of one knight's fee, and suit to the court of the manor of Ospringe, as of the honour of Peverell. He was succeeded by his grandson, Roger de Northwood, who in the 20th year of Edward III. paid aid for this estate, in conjunction with the Earl of Huntingdon, who possessed the other part in right of his wife, Juliana de Leyburne. John, the descendant of Roger, dying in the reign of Henry V. without issue male, his two sisters became his coheirs, who carried their respective shares in marriage, the one to John Barley, of Herefordshire, and the other to Sir John Norton, of this county. John Barley soon afterwards conveyed his moiety to John Adam, who possessed considerable estates in Essex; and his descendant, Stephen, was of Harrietsham, who, dying, left his sister Eve his heir, then the widow of John Levet, esq. who carried this moiety of the manor in marriage, at the latter end of the reign of Philip and Mary, to Laurence Ashburnam, gent. of Sussex. The latter, previous to the 17th of Elizabeth, alienated the estate to William Stede, esq. who the same year levied a fine of this moiety of the manor of Harrietsham.

THE OTHER MOIETY *of this manor*, which devolved to the possession of Sir John Norton, in right of his wife, as before mentioned, passed from his name into that of Peckham, in which it remained till Reginald Peckham, esq. of Yaldham, in the reign of Henry VIII. conveyed it to Edward Scott, esq. He, not long afterwards, transmitted it in the same manner to John Hales, esq. of the Dongeon, in Canterbury, one of the barons of the exchequer, whose descendant, William Hales, under Queen Elizabeth, by a fine then levied, passed this moiety by sale to Sir Warham St. Leger, of Ulcomb, sheriff in the 2d year of that reign. He, in the 21st year of the same princess, alienated this moiety of the manor of Harrietsham, to William Stede, esq. who having previously purchased the other moiety of Laurence Ashburnham, became possessed of the entire fee of both. The Stede's were of some note in this parish for more than a century before the period alluded to, for John Stede, senior, was resident here in 1460, who by his will devised his principal mansion, at Stede street, in this parish, to William, his son. This family bore for arms, *argent, a chevron between three boars' heads, couped sable, muzzled or.* William Stede, esq. the possessor of the manor, resided at Harrietsham, and dying in 1574, was buried in this church, under an altar tomb. His son, Sir William, also resided at Harrietsham, and was sheriff in the reign of James I., when his son, Sir John, succeeding to this estate, built a handsome mansion, naming it from himself, Stede hill. In his descendants, most of whom are interred in this church, the estate continued down to Edwyn Stede, esq. who succeeded to the same on his father's death, in 1735, and resided here. The latter, however, soon after he had acquired this manor, sold it to William Horsemonden Turner, esq. of Maidstone, of which town he was recorder, having also twice represented that place in parliament. He was the son of Anthony Horsemonden, of Maidstone, by his second wife, Jane, daughter of Sir William Turner, of Richmond, and grandson of Daniel Horsemonden, D.D. rector of Ulcomb, by Ursula, daughter of Sir Warham St. Leger.

He changed the name of this seat to Harrietsham place, which appellation it has ever since borne, and dying in 1755, was buried at Maidstone, bearing for his arms, first those of the Turner's, which he assumed on the demise of his uncle, John

Turner, bearing *on a bend, three fer, de molins*, quartered with those of Horsemonden, *gules a saltier, argent, surmounted by a fess azure, charged with leopards' heads of the first.* He married Elizabeth Read, of Gravesend, who survived him, and by his will possessed this manor, where she resided, and, dying in 1782, was buried beside her husband. This property then passed to Charles Booth, esq. of the Temple, London, who also resided here, having been sheriff and knighted; he espoused Mrs. Sheppard, and died in 1795, upon which the property devolved by the further entail and limitations in Mr. Turner's will, to William Baldwin, esq. who afterwards resided at Harrietsham. A court-leet and court-baron is held for this manor.

THE OTHER PART *of the manor of Harrietsham, lying in East Farborne,* in this parish, has already been taken notice of in the above description of that manor, wherein mention is made of the property having belonged to Odo, bishop of Bayeux.

On the disgrace of the above dignitary, it passed as part of the manor of Harrietsham, into the possession of the family of Cressi, and continued in their line till the death of Stephen de Cressi, in the 52d of Henry III. about which period the manor of Harrietsham seems to have been divided, when two thirds passed into the possession of the family of the Northwood's, as previously observed, and the remainder into that of the Leyborne's.

Roger de Leyborne died possessed of this estate, then styled the *manor of Harrietsham in East Farborne,* in the 56th year of the above reign, and his son, William de Leyborne, succeeded to the same in the 2d of Edward I.

Juliana, his granddaughter, became his heir; and Sir William de Clinton, earl of Huntingdon, held this estate in her right, when he, with Roger de Northwood, paid aid for one knight's fee in Harrietsham and East Farborne, which John de Northwood, and William de Leyborne had previously held there of the king, as of the *honour of Peverell.*

Juliana dying without issue, the estate became escheated to the crown, when this portion of the manor of Harrietsham, then styled the manor of Harrietsham in East Farborne, continued vested in the crown, till Richard II. in his 11th year, gave it to the priory of canons, or Chiltern Langley, in Hertfordshire, where it remained till the dissolution, in the 30th of Henry VIII. when

it was surrendered into the king's hands, who, the next year, granted it to Richard, suffragan bishop of Dover, together with the site of the above-mentioned monastery, to hold during his life, or until he should be promoted to one or more ecclesiastical benefices, of the yearly value of £100, in which case this grant should become void. This happened before the 36th of the above reign, as the king that year granted this manor to Sir Thomas Moile, to hold *in capite*, who gave it in marriage with his youngest daughter and coheir, Amy, to Sir Thomas Kempe, of Wye. He passed it away in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, to Thomas Wotton, esq. of Boughton Malherb, whose son, Sir Edward Wotton, was, in the 1st of James I. created lord Wotton, baron of Marley, in this parish. From the above period it continued under the name of the *manor of East Farborne*, in the same succession of ownership as the manor of Boughton Malherb, down to Philip Dormer Stanhope, earl of Chesterfield, who in 1750 alienated the property, with the rest of the Wotton estates in this county, to Galfridus Mann, esq. who died possessed of it in 1756, when his only son, Sir Horace Mann, knight and bart., became possessed of the manor of East Farborne.

West Farborne is a manor in this parish, so called from its situation to that of East Farborne, and was likewise part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record.

After the bishop's disgrace, this estate was granted to the families of the Magminot's and the Say's successively, of which last it was held in the reign of Henry III. as chief lords of the fee, by Sir William de Penington, of Penington, in Pluckley, as one knight's fee. His descendants, John and William Penington, two brothers, both dying, Amabilia, their sister, became their heir, who carried the estate in marriage to John Gobyon, esq. of Essex, when she survived him, and, dying in the reign of Henry IV. by deed vested this manor in feoffees, for the discharge of her debts and legacies. They sold the property to one Hedd, whose descendant, William Hedd, died possessed of it, being then held of Henry VIII. as of his honour of Saye, and also paying ward to Dover castle.

From the above name this manor passed to the family of the Love's, and thence to the St. Leger's, when Sir Warham de St. Leger, of Ulcomb, about the middle of that reign, conveyed it to

Mr. Benedict Barnham, alderman of London, and sheriff of that city, A.D. 1592. He died possessed of the property in 1598, and on the division of his estates, among his four surviving daughters and coheirs, this manor of West Farborne fell to the share of Dorothy, the third daughter, who entitled her husband, Sir John Constable, to the fee of the same, from whose descendant it passed by sale to Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Hollingborne. In the latter family it remained till Thomas lord Colepeper, leaving an only daughter and heir, Catherine, she carried it, with Leeds castle, and other possessions in this neighbourhood, in marriage to Thomas lord Fairfax, whose son, Robert lord Fairfax, dying in 1793, it became the property of his nephew, the Rev. Denny Martin Fairfax, D.D., afterwards of Leeds castle.

HARBILTON is another manor in this parish, written in ancient deeds *Herbreton*, which is now so blended with Harrietsham, by having had the same owners, that it is scarcely known by name. It was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record.

After the disgrace of that prelate, in the reign of Henry III., the family of Malmain's possessed this manor, one of which race paid aid for it in the 20th of the above monarch, as three quarters of a knight's fee, held of the Earl of Eu, as of his honour of Hagenet.

The above family soon after this period was succeeded by the line of the Marey's, William so called having possessed it in the reigns of Kings Henry V. and VI. to the former of whom he was an *esquire of the body*, and, in the latter reign, sheriff of this county, and *esquire* also to Henry Chichele, cardinal and archbishop of Canterbury. He died in the year 1459, and was buried in Preston church, near Faversham, when this manor became vested in Walter Moile, who was justice of the peace for this county during the reigns of Henry VI. and Edward IV. He was succeeded herein by his heir, John Moile, esq., whose son Robert, about the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. alienated the estate to Ralph St. Leger, of Ulcomb, whose grandson, Sir Warham, of Ulcomb, passed this manor, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, one part to Francis Colepeper, and the other to Henry Brockhull, esq. of Aldington. Soon after, we find William

Stede, esq. possessed of the property, in whose descendants it continued down to Edwyn Stede, esq., who, in 1735, alienated this estate, with the rest of his possessions in this parish to William Horsemonden Turner, esq.; since which it has passed with them, through the same succession of ownership, down to William Baldwin, esq. of Harrietsham place.

THERE ARE TWO MANORS in this parish, called MARLEY, otherwise *Merley Court*, and HOLME MILL, otherwise *Bentley;* the former of which is recorded in Domesday as having been an appendage to the manor of *Bewley*, or *Bouley*, in Boughton Malherbe, and part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record. After his disgrace, this manor passed into the possession of one Adam, who gave the tithes to Anschetil, archdeacon of Canterbury. He was succeeded by his brother Eudo Dapifer, that is to say, the king's steward, who gave the tithes of the same, with the consent of Anschetil, to the priory of St. Andrew, in Rochester.

Robert Fitzhamon, a powerful Norman lord, afterwards appears to have held this estate, whose daughter, Mabel, carried it in marriage to Robert earl of Gloucester, natural son to Henry I.

Subsequent to that period, the family of Cressi, possessors of Harrietsham manor, became lords of the fee; of whom it was held by a family which thence derived its name.

In the reign of King Henry III., the heir of Robert de Merlee held it as half a knight's fee of Roger de Cressi, and he of the king, as of the honour of Peveril; but they became extinct here before the 20th year of Edward III., when John de Somerye paid aid for it as half a knight's fee. How it afterwards passed we have not precisely ascertained, but, at the commencement of the reign of Edward IV., it was in the holding Thomas Kempe, bishop of London, who died holding it in 1489, and was buried in the chapel of the Trinity, in St. Paul's cathedral, founded by himself, and in which, by his will, he established a perpetual chantry, and endowed it with this manor of Murley court, then of the yearly value of £3 4 8. This manor continued so vested till the 1st of Edward VI., when the chantry was suppressed, and devolved to the king and his heirs; upon which it appears, from the survey taken, to have been let

to William Pratts, gent., at £4 per annum, when it paid a quit-rent to Sir Anthony St. Leger, lord of the manor of Lenham.

The king soon after granted this manor of Merley to Sir Edward Wotton, one of his privy counsel, who was then likewise possessed of the manor of Holme Mill, or Bentley, in this parish, which, we have reason to believe, had belonged to the priory of Leeds, having devolved to the hands of Henry VIII. at the suppression. The said Sir Edward died possessed of both these manors in the 6th of Edward VI., then holding them of the king *in capite* by knight's service. Upon his demise, they passed, in the same line of ownership as that of East Farborne, down to Philip Dormer Stanhope, earl of Chesterfield, who, in 1750, sold them, with the rest of the Wotton estates, to Galfridus Mann, esq., who held the same till his death, in 1756, when his only son, Sir Horace, succeeded to the possession.

THE WHOLE TITHES of the *manor of Merley court* were given by Adam, the possessor, as before mentioned, to Anschetil, archbishop of Canterbury.

These tithes remained with the priory till its dissolution, under Henry VIII., when the whole were surrendered to the king, who settled the property on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester. William Baldwin, esq., of Harrietsham Place, was the lessee under the dean and chapter.

HARRIETSHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. The church, which is a handsome building, consists of three aisles and three chancels, with a square tower at the west end, and is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. It contains some handsome monuments, and several memorials to the family of the Stede's. There was formerly a fraternity in this church of the Virgin Mary, to which Robert Waryn, of this place, by will, in 1471, gave some lands, called Bonyers, situated in this parish.

The church seems once to have belonged to the priory of Leeds, as King Richard II., in his 19th year, granted his licence to the prior and canons to appropriate it to their own uses. How it happened that this never took place, or that the priory was divested of the possession, we do not find, but, in the reign of Henry VI., it was in the hands of the crown, as that king, in his

27th year, granted the patronage and advowson of the same to the warden and fellows of All Souls' college, in Oxford, who still continue to hold it.

It was valued in the king's books at £11 10, the yearly tenths being £1 3.

In 1640 the estimate was £160, communicants 192. The glebe lands consist of sixty acres.

In 1821 there were ninety dwellings in the parish of Harrietsham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 363, females 344, making a total of 707 souls.

Hollingborne is the next parish north-westward from Harrietsham, called in Domesday *Hoilingeborde*, and in later records *Holingburnan*, and *Holingeburne*. It probably took its name from the spring which rises in the vale, beneath the hill, in this parish.

The parish of Hollingborne is situated much the same as that of Harrietsham, close to the great ridge of chalk hills; at the foot of which is the village called Hollingborne Street; and at the south end stand the church and vicarage. Contiguous to the same is a handsome brick mansion, of the time of Queen Elizabeth, which, from its appearance, must have had owners of some consequence, in former times; and what is most remarkable, the rector of Hollingborne, down to the present period, claims some rooms in the mansion alluded to, in right of his rectory.

The road through Newnham bottom from Ospringe and Canterbury traverses Hollingborne street, and passes thence through Eyhorne, commonly called Iron street, in this parish, where there are two good houses, one having belonged to Robert Salmon, esq., and the other to Mr. John Weeks, who died possessed of the same in 1785. Hence the road leads on, and ultimately joins that of Ashford, running through Bersted to Maidstone. The southern part of this parish consists chiefly of a deep sand, the whole, below the hill, being well watered by some small streams, which, running southward, join the Lenham rivulet, in its way to Maidstone. Nearer the street, the soil becomes a chalk, which continues to the summit of the hill, com-

puted to be 616 feet above the level of the sea,* at the edge of which eminence, stood Mr. Duppa's house. The remaining part of this parish, to the northward, is on elevated ground, much exposed to cold and bleak winds, the country being wild and dreary, abounding in thick hedge-rows, and frequent coppice-woods, mostly hazel and oak; the soil a deep tillage land, wet and poor, and covered with quantities of flint stones. On Eyhorne green, or, as it is commonly called, Broad street, in this parish, two constables are chosen, in the month of October in every year, one for the upper, the other for the lower half-hundred of Eyhorne; each of which districts consists of the twelve adjoining parishes; the borsholders therein, and the several boroughs, excepting those chosen at the different court-leets, being also elected here.

This parish, with the manor of Elnothington, together with the rest of the hundred of Eyhorne, was anciently bound to contribute to the repairing of the sixth pier of Rochester bridge.

Æthelstan Etheling, son of Ethelred II., gave by will, in 1015, to Christ church, in Canterbury, his lands at Hollingborne, with their appurtenances, excepting one plough land, which he had given to Siferth. In the mss. in Bennet college, Cambridge, of the evidences of Christ church, Canterbury, entitled Thorn, printed in Decim. Script. f. 2221, this gift is said to have been made in 980; a very improbable circumstance, the king, his eldest brother, at that time being only fourteen years of age.

The lands he had bought of his father, and gave them, with

* As the reader may be curious to ascertain, at one glance, the various altitudes existing in the county of Kent, we insert the following estimate:

Paddlesworth -	642	feet above the level of sea.
Hollingborne hill -	616	ditto.
Folkstone turnpike -	575	ditto.
Goudhurst - -	491	ditto.
Dover Castle - -	469	ditto.
Shooters hill -	416	ditto.
Swingfield steeple -	330	ditto.
Allington Knoll -	329	ditto.
Tenterden steeple -	322	ditto.
High Nock, near Dymchurch	280	ditto.
Greenwich observatory	214	ditto.

The above computations were given in by the surveyors under the direction of the Board of Ordnance.

his consent, to Christchurch, L.S.A., that is, free from all secular service, excepting the *trinoda necessitas*..

The manor of Hollingborne remained part of the possessions of the church of Canterbury at the time of the Conquest, when the revenues of the same were enjoyed as one common estate, by the archbishop and his convent. The primate Lanfranc, however, following the example of foreign churches in separating them, Hollingborne fell to the share of the monks, and was allotted for their subsistence, or *ad cibum*, as it was usually termed, and was entered in Domesday under the general title of *Terra Monachorum Archiepi*, that is to say, the land of the archbishop's monks.

At the period above alluded to, the whole of the premises appear to have been valued at £30.

King Henry II. granted to the monks of Christ church a charter for their lands at Hollingborne on the hills. In the 10th of Edward II., the prior obtained a charter of *free warren* for his manor of Hollingborne, among others; about which time it was, with its appurtenances, valued at £46 9 8. King Henry VI., by his letters patent, in the 26th of his reign, granted to the prior a market, to be held at this place on a Wednesday, and an annual fair, on the feast of St. Anne.

William Selling, who was elected prior in the reign of Edward IV., A.D. 1472, greatly improved the apartments of the prior. After which, it received no material alteration till the dissolution of the priory, which was surrendered into the hands of Henry VIII., in the 31st of his reign.

This manor did not remain long with the crown, for the king settled it on his new erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, in whom it has since remained.

A court-leet and court-baron is regularly held by the dean and chapter for this manor, which extends likewise into the adjoining parishes of Hucking, Bredhurst, and Harrietsham; the quit-rents, called Beadle rents, being about £42 per annum.

BUT THE DEMESNE LANDS OF THIS MANOR have been, from time to time, leased out by the dean and chapter, at a reserved rent of £10 9. The year subsequent to this grant having been made to them, they demised the same by lease to J. Reynolde, as they did, in the 19th of Elizabeth, to William Purefoy, in whose family they remained till the reign of James I. They

were subsequently held by the Fludd's, on lease, and so continued till their interest passed away to W. Alabaster, D.D. These premises were then successively held by the Bargrave's, the Boys's, the Fanewell's, and the Gookin's, till the year 1684, when Sir Thomas Colepeper had a lease of the same; in whose family they continued till John Spencer Colepeper, of the Charterhouse, passed away his interest therein to the Hon. Robert Fairfax, who held them in 1758, and then alienated his lease to Francis Child, esq. banker, of London; whose brother, Robert, also a banker, dying in 1782, the trustees of his will, Robert Dent and John Keysal, esqs. became possessed of his interest in the lease of these demesnes, under the dean and chapter.

ELNOTHINGTON is a manor of great account in this parish and Bersted, which appears, by Domesday record, to have formed part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered by the name of Alnoitone.

After that prelate's disgrace, his estates became confiscated to the crown; and, in the reign of Edward I., this manor of Elnothington was held by William de Port, as half a knight's fee, of Robert de St. John. It then passed into the possession of a family which thence assumed its surname; and, in a deed of Adam de Twisden, which bears date the 21st of that reign, William de Elnothington appears as a witness.

In the reign of Edward III. Sir Arnold de St. Leger, of Ulcomb, was in possession of this property; in the 42d of which reign, he made a composition with several of his tenants for the lands they held of this manor. From him it passed, in an uninterrupted descent, down to Sir Warham St. Leger, of Ulcomb, sheriff in the 2d year of Queen Elizabeth, who was slain in Ireland, A.D. 1599. Some years before his death, he alienated this estate, with Greenway court, in this parish, to Francis Colepeper, esq., second son of William Colepeper, esq. of Losenham and Wigsell, who afterwards resided at Greenway court. His son, Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Greenway court, succeeded him in this manor, of which he died possessed in 1661; since which, it has passed, in the same manner as that estate, down to Robert Child, esq., banker, of London, the trustees of whose will, Robert Dent and John Keysall, esqs., then became possessors of the same.

Greenway Court was formerly esteemed a manor, the mansion of which was a seat of some account in this parish. It is situated close at the foot of the chalk hill, near a mile eastward from Hollingborne church, and was anciently possessed by a family which thence derived its surname. One of that line, William, son of Gilbert de Greenwaye, was owner, and resided here in 1236, as appears by a register of Christ church, in Canterbury. How long they continued possessors of this estate, we cannot find, but it became next the property of the family of the Atteleze's. Sampson Atte Leze, of Sheldwich, was owner in the 26th of Edward III. as also his descendant, Marcellus, who left two daughters coheirs, to one of whom, Cecile, and her husband, Valentine Barnett, of Perry's court, he by deed, in the 15th of Richard II. gave all his lands and tenements in Hollingborne, and elsewhere, in the hundred of Eyhorne; and they by deed and fine, levied in the 22d of the same reign, passed this estate away to Thomas Wotton, for 100 marks of silver.

In the reign of Henry VI. William Wotton, son of Thomas, conveyed, to Walter Langle, esq., the manor, or messuage of Greenway. From that name it passed, in the reign of Edward IV., to Ralph St. Leger, esq. of Ulcomb; when descending, as before mentioned, to Sir Warham St. Leger, he alienated it, with that of Elnothington, as above described, to Francis Colepeper, son of William, of Losenham, in this county, and Wigsell, in Sussex. He was the son of Walter Colepeper, by Anne, his wife, only daughter and heir of Henry Aucher, esq. of Losenham, in Newenden, which Walter was son of Sir John Colepeper, of Bedgbury, in Goudhurst, living in the reign of Edward IV. William Colepeper, before mentioned, had by Cicelie, daughter of Edward Barrett, esq., seven sons; of whom Sir John, of Wigsell, in the reign of James I. was ancestor of the Lords Colepeper, the heir of which family married Thomas lord Fairfax, and entitled him, in her right, to the possession of Leeds castle; Francis, the second son, purchased Greenway court, as before mentioned; Thomas was the third son, and ancestor of the Colepeper's of St. Stephen's, near Canterbury; Dr. Martin Colepeper, the fourth son, lies buried in Kingsnorth church; and Walter, the fifth, who settled at Hunburne, in Oxfordshire, left an only daughter and heir.

Francis Colepeper, esq. afterwards resided at Greenway court,

where he died in 1501, and was buried in this church, leaving an only son, Sir Thomas, who also resided at Greenway court, though he had purchased Leeds castle. He died at the former place in 1661, and was buried in Hollingborne church, having had by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of John Cheney, esq. of Guestling, in Sussex, three sons and eight daughters. Of the former, Sir Cheney, the eldest, inherited Leeds castle, where a further account of him will be given; Francis, the second son, died young; and Sir Thomas Colepeper, the third son, became possessed of Greenway court, where he resided.

His grandson, John Spencer Colepeper, esq. was of the Charterhouse, and alienated Greenway court to the Hon. Robert Fairfax, of Leeds castle, who afterwards sold the same to Francis Child, esq. of London, banker; on whose death, in 1763, it devolved to his brother and heir at law, Robert Child, of London, who, dying in 1782, the trustees of his will, Robert Dent and John Keysall, esqrs. as before observed, became possessors of this property.

Ripple is a reputed manor and seat in this parish, which had owners of that name; for, in the 30th of Edward I., Richard de Ripple held, at his decease, this, and other lands in the parish of Hollingborne, on lease, of the prior and convent of Christ church, in Canterbury. It did not, however, long continue in his name, for, before the end of the reign of Edward III. it had become the property of the family of the Septvan's, one of whom, Sir William, died possessed of it in the 25th of that reign, and was succeeded by his son William, who, not long afterwards, conveyed it to John Glover, who died owner of the same in the 39th of that reign. From that line, not many years afterwards, it was alienated to Sir John Brockhull, whose descendants resided at Aldington, in the adjoining parish of Thurnham, in which name this manor continued down to Henry Brockhull, esq. of Aldington, who died, in 1596, possessed of the manor of Ripple. He left two daughters his coheirs, of whom Anne, by marrying Mr. John Taylor, gent. entitled him to this estate, which he alienated to Sir Martin Barnham. He was son of Francis Barnham, esq. sheriff of London, A. D. 1570, eldest son of Stephen Barnham, of Southwick, in Hants, a gentleman of the privy chamber to Henry VIII., whose son we believe to have been Nicholas Barnham, sergeant at law in the beginning of the reign of Queen

Elizabeth Francis Barnham bore for his arms *sable, a cross engrailed, between four crescents argent;* and had four sons, of whom Martin, before mentioned, was the eldest, and Benedict, the fourth, was alderman and sheriff of London in 1592, and dying in 1598, left five daughters his coheirs.

Sir F. Barnham, the purchaser of this manor, afterwards resided at Hollingborne hill, and was sheriff in the 40th of Queen Elizabeth. He died in 1610, and was buried in this church, being succeeded in the manor of Ripple by his eldest son, Sir Francis Barnham, who was of Hollingborne, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Sampson Lennard, esq. of Chevening, sister of Henry lord Dacre, by whom he had fifteen children, ten of whom, six sons and four daughters, survived her. Of the sons, Dacre was the eldest; and Robert, the second, was seated at Boughton Monchensie. In his descendants this manor remained some time, till sold to the Duckesberry's, in which name it continued down to Mr. John Duckesberry, of Bersted, who dying, left Mary, his widow, in the possession of the same, and she afterwards marrying Mr. Hodsoll Sale, of Bersted, he possessed it in her right.

Murston is another manor in this parish, which, in ancient deeds and court-rolls, was usually written *Moston*, and in the reign of Edward I. was the property of a family bearing that name, which became extinct before the beginning of the reign of Richard II. It then passed to the name of Wood, in whose descendants it continued for several centuries, and, about the period of the restoration of Charles II., was passed away to the Chalmer's, in which line it remained till Reynolds Chalmer, gent. alienated this manor, with other premises, to Christopher Vane lord Barnard, who died in 1723, having by will given this manor, with Snagsbrook, Claypitts, and other lands in this parish, to his second son, William viscount Vane, who afterwards resided at Fairlawn, near Wrotham.

His only son and heir, William viscount Vane, dying in 1788, devised this estate to David Papillon, esq. of Acrise, who sold it with the rest of his estates, in 1791, to Lewis Cage, esq. of Bersted, who settled them on his eldest son.

Penn Court is a manor and seat in Hollingborne, formerly called Pende court, from a family which anciently owned it, but this name became extinct before the end of the reign of

Edward III., as John Donnett, of Silham, in Rainham, died possessed of it in that reign. His descendant, James, left an only daughter Margerie, who carried this seat in marriage to John St. Leger, of Ulcomb, sheriff under Henry VI., and in whose descendants it continued down to Sir Warham St. Leger, who alienated it, with Elnothington, Greenway court, and other estates in this parish, to Francis Colepeper, esq. The latter died possessed of the property, but his son, Sir Thomas, passed it away to Mr. Marc Quested, of London, who, at his death, settled it for ever on the warden and commonalty of the Fishmonger's company, as trustees of his almshouses, founded in the adjoining parish of Harrietsham; the endowment of which he directed to be paid out of the yearly profits of this manor, and as such the company are entitled to the inheritance.

Hollingborne Hill is a seat and estate in this parish, so called from its situation, on the summit of the chalk hill above Hollingborne street. It was formerly called *Eyotis*, and, in 1609, was in the possession of Sir Martin Barnham, who that year built a new mansion on the site, wherein he resided, as did also his eldest son, Sir Francis Barnham, who afterwards parted with it to Gabriel Levesey, esq. On his death it went to his son and heir, Sir Michael Levesey, who conveyed all his interest therein, in 1623, to Sir John Hayward, second son of Sir Rowland Hayward, alderman, and twice lord mayor of London. Sir John, during his residence here, was sheriff in the reign of James I., and died in 1636 without issue, having by will bequeathed his manor of Minster, in the isle of Shepey, to charitable uses, previous to which, he, in 1632, conveyed this manor to Cheney Colepeper, esq. of Greenway court, who in 1652 passed it away to Henry Pelham, esq. He, by will, devised it to his nephew, George, who dying in 1686, it went to his brother, Charles, who left a son, then an infant, to whom he gave the fee of this property, and enjoined him to sell it when he should come of age, which he accordingly did, in 1705, to Baldwin Duppa, esq., descended from the same family as Brian Duppa, bishop of Winchester, who died in 1622, and Sir Thomas Duppa, gentleman usher of the black rod to Charles II., but their consanguinity we have not been able to ascertain. They bore for their arms, *Azure, a lions' gamb, erased in fess, between two chains barwise, or.* In 1707 he settled this estate on his

only son, Baldwin Duppa, esq. though he lived many years after, and dying in 1737, was buried in this church, where a monument has been erected to his memory. Baldwin Duppa, esq. his son, in 1717, rebuilt this seat on the site of the old mansion, and resided here in 1722. In 1735 he served the office of sheriff, and dying unmarried in 1764, was buried in this church, having by will bequeathed this property, with all his other estates, to his kinsman, the Rev. Richard Hancorn, whose grandmother was Mr. Duppa's father's eldest sister; with an injunction for him to assume the name and arms of the Duppa's, for which an Act was passed in the 5th of George III. He afterwards quitted the clerical profession, and took the addition of esquire, when he resided here, and died in 1789, having married Miss Baas, of Hackney, by whom he had no issue.

Upon his death, this property, with his other estates, went to his brother, Baldwin Hancorn, who took the name of Duppa, as did his son Baldwin Duppa Duppa, esq. who subsequently became proprietor of this seat of Hollingborne hill.

Hollingborne is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton, and is exempt from that of the archdeacon. The church, dedicated to All Saints, is a handsome building, consisting of three large aisles, with a chancel at the end of that in the centre, having a square tower at the west end. The chancel is highly ornamented with monuments of the ancient family of the Colepeper's, of Greenway court, and for two of the lords Colepeper, one having been executed by the masterly hand of Rysbrack. On the north side is a memorial for Sir Martin Barnham, and his two wives, A.D. 1610, presenting their three figures kneeling at a desk, and, beneath, their children.

At the east end of the north aisle is a small neat chapel, elevated by several steps, to give room for a vault underneath, in which lie the remains of all this branch of the Colepeper family. The sides of the chapel are filled with black escutcheons, and square tablets of black marble alternately; only two of these are filled up, and those with younger branches of the family, settled elsewhere, a melancholy proof of the disappointment and vain endeavours of the builder to transmit the memory of his descendants to posterity.

On the centre of the pavement is a beautiful raised monument

of white marble, with the figure of a lady lying at full length, in the habit of the times, of very fine sculpture, in memory of Elizabeth, lady of Sir Thomas Colepeper, daughter of John Cheney, esq. of Sussex, obit. 1638. In the aisle is another memento for Nicholas Chaloner, esq. obit. 1706, and against the north wall of the north aisle, one for two of the family of the Duppa's. At the lower end of the church are memorials for the Plummer's, the Collins's, and the Dyke's; and in the middle aisle is a stone whereon formerly lay the figures of a man and woman in brass, two shields of arms still remaining, being quarterly first and fourth, *a chevron engrailed, on a chief, three fleur de lis; second and third, three fishes wavy, fesswise in pale.*

In this church is a most superb altar-cloth, and a pulpit cloth and cushion of purple velvet, ornamented with the fruits of the pomegranate and vine wrought in gold, being the needlework of the daughters of Sir John Colepeper, afterwards created Lord Colepeper, who employed themselves for the space of twelve years in working the same, during their father's absence abroad with King Charles II.

The communion plate is very handsome, and answerable to the above-mentioned furniture, being mostly the gift of the family of the Colepeper's, and a portion presented by Baldwin Duppa, esq.

John Eweyn, by his will, in 1527, gave a table of alabaster, to stand upon the altar of St. John the Baptist, in this church, and money to repair the said chapel. John Aloff, parson of Hollingborne, by his will in 1537 was buried in the way beside the porch door on the right hand, and in the wall, near his grave, a stone with a plate of sculpture mentions where and when he was buried.

He had before been vicar of Little Chart, and of St. Laurence Wolton, as he was then of St. John's, Sherburne, in Hants.

The church of Hollingborne, to which the chapels of Hucking and Bredhurst were anciently annexed, is a *sinecure rectory*, with a vicarage endowed. The rector of Hollingborne is patron of the perpetual curacy of the chapel of Bredhurst, and the archbishop is patron both of the rectory and vicarage of Hollingborne, the vicar of which is collated to this vicarage, with the chapel of Hucking annexed.

The vicarage was endowed before the year 1407, at which pe-

riod, Arthur St. Leger, the rector, granted to William Maunby, vicar of this church, a messuage, with its appurtenances, in this parish, for the habitation of himself and his successors for ever. In the register of Archbishops Chichele, at Lambeth, there is an unauthenticated writing of a composition made about the year 1441, bearing no date, between William Lyeff, then rector here, and John Ffylde, vicar, upon the assignment of a proper portion for the endowment of this vicarage in future times.

The rectory of Hollingborne was valued in the king's books at £28 15 5, the tenths being £2 17 6½. The vicarage was valued in them at £7 6 8, the yearly tenths being 14s. 8d. The vicarage, in 1640, was estimated at £86, when the communicants were 271. It was afterwards of the certified yearly value of £70 16 8.

The vicarage was augmented £20 per annum, by lease between Ralph Staunton, rector, and Sir Thomas Colepeper, of this parish.

In 1821, there were 156 dwellings in the parish of Hollingborne; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 535, females 465, making a total of 1000 souls.

Leeds is the next parish southward from Hollingborne; concerning which place, Kilburne says, that one Ledian, a chief counsellor to King Ethelbert II., who began his reign in 978, raised a fortress here, which was called, in Latin, from him *Ledani Castrum*, and in process of time, in English, Leeds. This castle was afterwards demolished by the Danes, and continued in that dilapidated state till the Norman Conquest.

The present fortress is situated at the south-east boundary of the parish, adjoining to Bromfield, which includes a part of the castle itself. It is situated in the midst of the park; an ample description of which will be given hereafter.

The Lenham rivulet pursues its course through the park, and supplies the moat and the several waters in the grounds, when, having received into its current the several small streamlets from Hollingborne, and one from the opposite side, which flows from Leeds abbey, it pursues its course, and, at a small distance from Caring street, in this parish, adjoining Bersted, turns a mill,

and then goes on to Maidstone, where it joins the Medway. The high road from Ashford and Lenham runs close by the outside of the pales of Leeds park, and thence goes on to Bersted and Maidstone, from which the park is distant something more than five miles. The soil in this part is a deep sand, but near the river it changes to a black moorish earth. Southward from the castle the ground rises; and about three quarters of a mile to the south-west, is Leeds abbey, the front of which is a handsome-looking building, of the time of Queen Elizabeth. It is situated very pleasantly on a gentle eminence, and is well watered by a small stream which rises just above it, and turns a mill. The back part is amply covered by wood, to which the ground keeps rising. Adjoining the abbey lands, westward, is Leeds street, a long straggling row of houses, nearly a mile in length, having the church at the south end of it. Here the soil becomes red and unproductive, being mixed with flints, which continue till it unites with Langley and Otham.

Leeds was part of the possessions given by the Conqueror to his half-brother, Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday; and on that prelate's disgrace, this estate became confiscated to the crown.

It was soon after granted by the Conqueror to the eminent family of the Crevequer's, called in ancient charters *Crevecœur*, and in Latin *De Crepito Corde*, which race at first made Chatham, in this county, their place of residence, or *caput baroniæ*, that is to say, the principal manor of their barony, until they removed hither, having been before frequently written *Domini de Cetham*.

Robert, son of Hamon de Crevequer, who had, probably, a grant of Leeds from the Conqueror, appears to have held it of the king, as of his castle of Dover, *in capite* by barony, which consisted of five knights' fees, being styled *Baronia de Crevequer*, and he erected the castle here, to which he afterwards removed the capital seat of his barony. This castle being environed with water, was frequently, in ancient writings, mentioned by the name of Le Mote. In the north-west part he built a chapel, wherein he placed three canons, who, upon his founding the priory of Leeds, in the reign of Henry I., he removed hither.

His descendant, Hamon de Crevequer, lived in the reign of Henry III., in the 19th year of which prince, he was joined with

Walerand Teutonicus, or *Teys*, in the wardenship of the five ports, and the following year, obtained possession of the lands of William de Albrincis, or Averenches, whose daughter and heir, Maud, he had married. He died in the reign of Henry III. possessed of the manor of Leeds; when Robert, his grandson, succeeded him as heir, and in the 52d year of that reign exchanged the manor of Leeds, together with a moiety of all his fees, with Roger de Leyburne, for the manors of Trottesclyve and Flete. He left William his son and heir, who, in the reign of Edward I. had possession granted him of the manor of Leeds, as well as the rest of the inheritance, of which Eleanor countess of Winchester, his father's widow, was not endowed.

His son, William de Leyborne, observing that the king regarded the strength of this fortress with great jealousy, in the reign of Edward I., reinstated the crown in the possession of both the manor and castle, and the king having, in his 27th year, married Margaret, sister of Philip king of France, he settled them, being then of the yearly value of £21 6 8, among other premises, as part of her dower. She survived the king, her husband, who died in 1307, and, in the 5th year of the next reign, namely, that of Edward II., by the king's recommendation, appointed Bartholomew de Badlesmere, a nobleman of great power and eminence, as governor of this castle. She died possessed of the same in the 10th year of that reign, on which they again reverted to the crown, when the lord Badlesmere had this manor granted to him in fee, with the advowson of the priory of Leeds, in exchange, for the manor of Addresley, in Shropshire. Being possessed of great estates, more especially in this county, he was usually styled *the rich lord Badlesmere of Leeds*. The ambition of this nobleman, combined with his immense wealth, led him to forget his allegiance, wherefore he joined the earl of Lancaster and the discontented barons, upon which the king resolved, if possible, to gain possession of this strong fortress. To effect that purpose, under pretence of the queen's performing a pilgrimage to Canterbury, she set forward, accompanied by a large train of attendants, and, with a secret intention of surprising the castle, sent her marshal, with others of her suite to order lodgings for herself and servants. The lord Badlesmere's lady, his son, and four daughters, were at that time in the fortress, as well as all his treasure, deposited for safety, under the care of Sir Thomas

Colepeper, the castellan, who was directed to refuse the queen's servants admittance; which, on her arrival in person, he still peremptorily persisted in, without receiving express letters from his lord to that effect. The queen, in consequence, made some attempt to gain admittance by force, when a skirmish ensued, in which one or two of her attendants were slain, so that, being repulsed, she was compelled to relinquish her design, and seek a lodging elsewhere.

The king, exasperated at the failure of his scheme, and highly resenting the indignity offered to the queen, sent a force, under the earls of Pembroke and Richmond, to besiege the castle; when those within, finding no hopes of relief, (for though the lord Badlesmere had induced the barons to endeavour to raise the siege, they never advanced nearer than Kingston,) the fortress was, in consequence, surrendered to the royal forces. Lady Badlesmere and her children were then sent prisoners to the Tower of London; Sir Thomas Colepeper, the castellan, was hung to the chain of the drawbridge; when the king took possession of the castle, and all the treasures it contained. Some writers have asserted, that Thomas de Aldone was castellan at this time, and sent, with the lady Badlesmere, as well as Sir Bartholomew de Burgershe, prisoners to the Tower; and that the king afterwards caused Walter Colepeper, bailiff of the seven hundreds, to be cruelly drawn at the tails of horses, and hung near the castle; upon which, Thomas Colepeper, and others who were with him, hearing of the king's approach, fled from Tunbridge castle to join the barons.

Lord Badlemere being subsequently made prisoner in Yorkshire, was despatched to Canterbury, and there hung at the gallows of Blean, when his head was cut off, and set on a pole, on Burgate, in that city.

This manor and castle, in consequence, again became part of the royal revenue, and remained in a most ruinous condition till 1359, being the 34th year of the reign of Edward III., at which period that munificent prelate, William of Wickham, was constituted, by the king, chief warden and surveyor of his castle of Leeds, and invested with power to appoint all workmen, provide materials, and order every thing for building and reparations. Under the direction of that prelate, Leeds castle was restored in a manner superior to what it had ever been before; which induced

Richard II. to visit this place on several occasions, particularly in his 19th year, at which period many of his public instruments were dated from his castle of Leeds. It appears, at the time alluded to, to have been a fortress of considerable strength; and was also made the residence of Henry IV., during part of the month of April, in the 2d year of his reign.

Subsequent to the above period, Archbishop Arundel, whose mind was as noble as his birth, procured a grant of this castle, where he frequently resided, and kept his court, during the proceedings instituted against the lord Cobham; many of that ecclesiastic's instruments being dated from his castle at Leeds, in 1413, being the period of his death. Upon that event, this castle again reverted to the crown, and became accounted as one of the king's mansions, many of the principal gentry of the county being, at different periods, intrusted with the custody and care of the same.

In the 7th of Henry V., Joan of Navarre, the second queen of his predecessor, Henry IV., being accused of conspiring against the life of the king, her son in law, was committed to Leeds castle, there to remain during that prince's pleasure; and being afterwards delivered into the custody of Sir John Pelham, he removed her to the castle of Pevensey, in Sussex.

In the 18th of Henry VI., Archbishop Chichele presided at the castle of Leeds, during the process instituted against Eleanor duchess of Gloucester, for alleged sorcery and witchcraft.

Edward IV., in his 11th year, constituted Ralph St. Leger, esq. of Ulcomb, constable of this castle for ever, and annexed one of the parks, as a further emolument to that office. He died the same year, and was buried with his ancestors at Ulcomb.

Sir Thomas Bourchier resided at Leeds castle in the 1st of Richard III., and had a commission to receive the oaths of allegiance to King Richard from the inhabitants of the several parts of Kent therein mentioned; in which year, the king confirmed the liberties of Leeds priory, in recompense for twenty-four acres of land in Bromfield, granted for the enlargement of his park of Leeds.

In the 4th of Henry VIII., Henry Guildford, esq., had a grant of the office of constable of Leeds castle, and ranger of the park; and, in the 12th year of that monarch, had also a grant of the custody of the manor of Leeds, with sundry perquisites, for

forty years. He died in the 23d year of the above prince, having rebuilt a great portion of this castle at the charge of the king, which was very considerable.

But the *fee simple* of the manor and castle of Leeds remained in the crown till the reign of Edward VI., who granted them, with their appurtenances, in the parishes of Leeds, Langley, and Sutton, to Sir Anthony St. Leger, lord deputy of Ireland, to hold *in capite* by knight's service. His son, Sir Warham, succeeded him in this manor and castle, and was chief governor of Munster, in Ireland, where he was unfortunately slain in 1599; but, previous to his death, had alienated this castle to Sir Richard Smyth, fourth son of Thomas Smyth, esq., of Westenhanger, commonly called Customer Smyth.

Sir Richard Smyth resided at Leeds castle, of which he died possessed in 1628, and was buried in Ashford church, where a costly monument is erected to his memory. Sir John Smyth, his only son, succeeded, and was a resident at Leeds castle; when dying in 1632, he was buried in this church. His two sisters, Alice, wife of Sir Timothy Thornhill, and Mary, united to Maurice Barrow, esq., becoming his coheirs, entitled their respective husbands to this property, of which they joined in the sale to Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Hollingborne, who, after purchasing this property, settled it on his eldest son, Cheney, with remainder to his two other sons, Francis and Thomas. Cheney resided at Leeds for some time, and at length persuaded his brother (Sir Thomas Francis being dead,) to cut off the entail of this estate, when they joined in the sale of the same to their cousin, Sir John Colepeper lord Colepeper, only son of Sir John, of Wigsell, in Sussex, whose younger brother, Francis, was of Greenway court, in Hollingborne, and father of Sir Thomas Colepeper, the purchaser of this estate, as above mentioned.

Sir John Colepeper represented the county of Kent in Parliament, in the 16th of Charles I., who, being a person of pre-eminent abilities, had raised himself in the favor of the king, was appointed one of his privy council, and chancellor of the Exchequer; afterwards master of the rolls, and governor of the Isle of Wight. During the troubles of that monarch, he continued stedfast to the royal cause, and, as a reward for his services, was, in 1644, created lord Colepeper baron Thoresway, in Lincolnshire.

After the king's death, he remained abroad with Charles II.

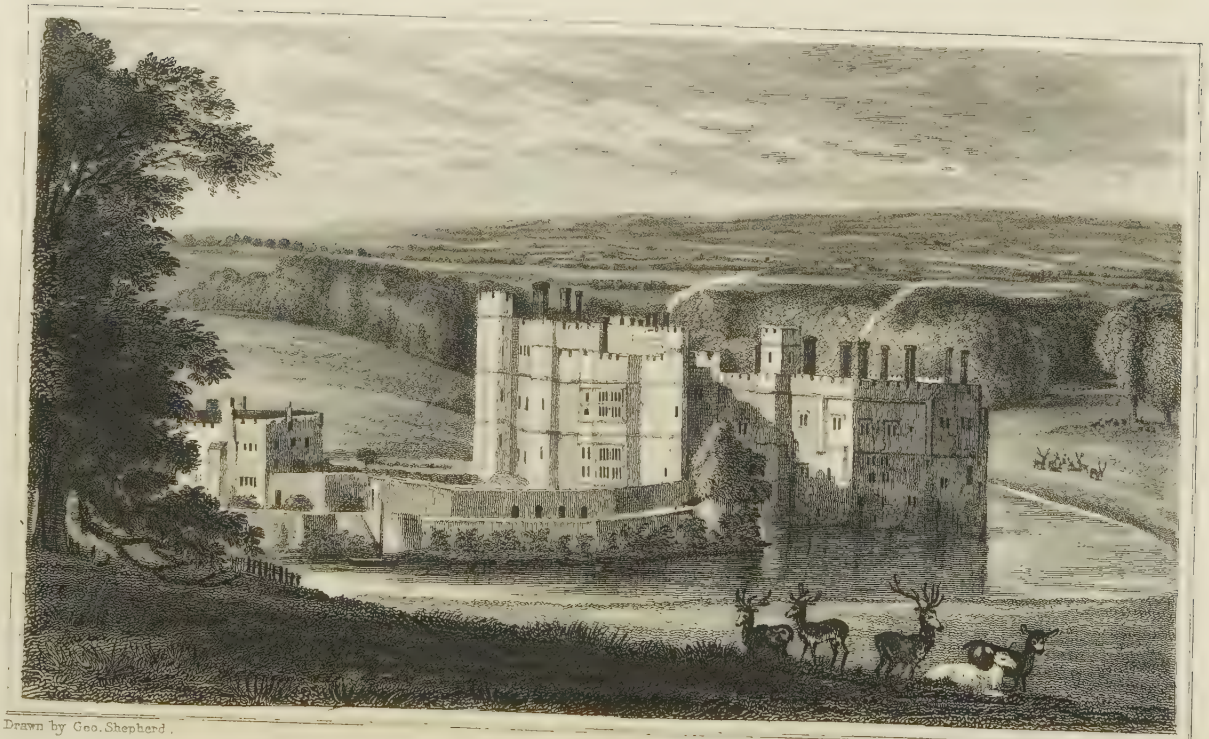
in his exile ; and during his absence, Leeds castle seems to have been in the possession of the usurping powers, and used by them for the assembling their committee men and sequestrators, as a gaol for a receptacle to imprison the ejected ministers ; as, in 165[illegible] all his estates had been declared by Parliament forfeited, for treason against the state. He died in 1660, only a few weeks after the Restoration, and was buried at Hollingborne. He bore for his arms *Argent, a bend engrailed, gules*, being the ancient bearing of this eminent family. He left by his second wife, Judith, daughter of Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Hollingborne, several children ; of whom Thomas was his successor in title and estates, and died without issue male, as will be mentioned hereafter. John succeeded his brother in the title and estates, and died in 1719, when Cheney succeeded his brother, and died at his residence of Hofton St. John, in 1725. Thomas lord Colepeper, the eldest son, succeeded his father in title, and in the possession of this castle and manor, where he resided, having married Margaret, daughter of Signior Jean de Hesse, of a noble family in Germany, by whom he left a sole daughter and heir, Catherine, who carried this estate in marriage to Thomas lord Fairfax, of Cameron, in Scotland, with other estates in this neighbourhood.

The family of Fairfax appears, by old evidences in their hands, to have been in the possession of lands in Yorkshire about 600 years back. Richard Fairfax held estates in that county in the reign of King John, whose grandson, William, in the time of Henry III., purchased the manor of Walton, in the West Riding, where he and his successors resided for many succeeding generations.

Ferdinando, the second lord Fairfax, during the civil wars under Charles I., was made general of the Parliament forces, and died at York in 1646. His son, Sir Thomas, succeeded him as lord Fairfax, as well as to all his posts under the Parliament, being the famous general so noted in English history during the civil wars, but at length becoming weary of the distress and confusion which his former conduct had brought upon his unhappy country, he concurred in the Restoration of Charles II. After that event, he retired to his seat at Bilborough, in Yorkshire, where he died in 1671, and was buried there, leaving by Anne, daughter and coheir of Horatio lord Vere, of Tilbury, an only daughter, upon which the title devolved to Henry Fairfax, esq.,

of Oglesthorpe, in Yorkshire, his first cousin, eldest son of Henry, rector of Bolton Percy, second son of Thomas, first lord Fairfax. Henry lord Fairfax died in 1680, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Thomas, fifth lord, who was brought up to a military life, and rose to the rank of a brigadier general. He represented Yorkshire in several Parliaments, and marrying Catherine, daughter and heir of Thomas lord Colepeper, possessed, in her right, this manor and castle, with other large possessions, as before mentioned.

He died holding this property in 1710, leaving three sons and four daughters; Thomas, who succeeded him as lord Fairfax; Henry Colepeper Fairfax, who died unmarried in 1734; and Robert, of whom we shall speak hereafter. Of the daughters, Margaret married David Wilkins, prebendary of Canterbury, and Frances espoused Denny Martin, esq. Thomas lord Fairfax resided at Leeds castle till he quitted England to reside on his great possessions in Virginia, where he remained till his death. On his departure from England, he gave up this manor and castle, with his other estates in this county, to the Hon. Robert Fairfax, who afterwards resided at Leeds castle; and, on his brother's death, unmarried, in 1782, succeeded to the title. He was at first bred to a military life, but becoming possessed of this manor, retired there, and twice served in the house of Commons for the town of Maidstone, and in two successive Parliaments for the county. He was twice married; first, to Martha, daughter and coheir of Anthony Collins, esq., of Baddow, in Essex, by whom he had one son, who died an infant; and secondly, to one of the daughters of Thomas Best, esq. of Chatham. Lord Fairfax died in 1793, when this castle and manor, with the rest of his estates in this county, devolved to his nephew, the Rev. Denny Martin, eldest son of his sister, Frances, who had, before his uncle's death, been created D.D., and, by royal licence, assumed the name and arms of Fairfax; he died unmarried. On the demise of Mr. Denny Martin Fairfax, Leeds castle went to his two maiden sisters, who both dying unmarried, it passed, but in what manner we are unable to state, to the present possessor, of the name of Wickham, as John Spencer Colepeper, an officer in the army, and grandson of John Spencer Colepeper, of the Charterhouse and Greenway court, before mentioned, is still existing, having three sons living, namely, John Spencer, Frederick, and Charles.



Drawn by Geo. Shepherd.

Engraved by Garner

LEEDS CASTLE.

KENT.

THE SEAT OF W MARTIN ESQ^R

[illegible] Co. Vienne 26 [illegible]

A court-leet and court-baron is held for this manor of Leeds, at which three borsholders are appointed. It is divided into six divisions, or yokes, viz. the yokes of Church, Ferinland, Mill, Russerken, Stockwell, and Lees.

Leeds castle is a magnificent pile of building, being composed of stone, erected at different periods, and of various orders of architecture, notwithstanding which, it is a very superb fabric. This noble structure is pleasantly situated in the midst of a beautiful park, encircled by a large moat of running water, being plentifully stocked with fish, more especially pike, which have been caught so large, as to weigh between thirty and forty pounds. At the entrance are the remains of an ancient gateway, which has been pulled down to within about a yard of the ground, the remains, however, being sufficient to convince the observer of its original strength. A small distance to the north-west, are the ruins of a very ancient building, probably that part of the fortress wherein Robert de Crevequer placed the three chaplains, on his first erection of this edifice.

The approach to the castle is over a stone bridge of two arches, under another ancient gateway, which, with the part already described, appears to have been a portion of the old fortress, built by the Crevequer's, having escaped demolition at the period the rest was pulled down. Within the last-mentioned gate, is a handsome quadrangle, or court, and on the right hand, a building, which appears, by the architecture, to be of the time of William of Wickham, and was probably a portion of the structure erected by that prelate. Opposite the entrance, are the state or principal apartments, having had a handsome uniform front, of rustic stonework, added thereto ; the windows, though sashed, are arched in the Gothic taste, and the parapet is also embattled. Behind this building, over a bridge of two arches, which was formerly a drawbridge, but now built on, and enclosed as a passage, is a large erection, constituting the extremity of the castle. It is a very handsome structure, of beautiful workmanship, intended, no doubt, for beauty as well as strength, and seems to be of the period of Henry VIII. It was, most probably, erected by Sir Henry Guildford, who was constable in that reign, and rebeautified this place, as previously mentioned, at the king's expense. The site of this building,

from its strength and situation, was, most probably, the spot where the ancient keep of the castle was situated.

On the evening of Tuesday, November 3, 1779, his majesty George III. and Queen Charlotte, after having reviewed the grand camp at Coxheath, honoured Leeds castle with their presence. The following day they received therein the compliments of the nobility and gentry, as well as the mayor, and other members of the corporation of the town of Maidstone; and the next morning set out for London, highly pleased with this fortress, and the reception they met with from its munificent owner.

Robert de Crevequer, with the assistance of Adam, his son, in 1119, founded a PRIORY AT LEEDS for black canons regular of the order of St. Augustine, and by his charter gave them a site for the founding of their church, in honour of St. Mary and St. Nicholas, and other convenient buildings for the religious, as it was then enclosed. He also gave them the forstal which was before their gate, and the land laying on both sides of the same, which gift was afterwards confirmed by Daniel de Crevequer, his son, as also by his son Robert, who likewise gave them the mill of Brandescombe, in Leeds. He also bestowed upon that fraternity his wood called East Park, with the lands adjoining, in this parish, in pure and perpetual alms.

Robert, son of Hamo de Crevequer, junior, under Edward I., confirmed all the gifts made to the canons of Leeds by his ancestors, or himself within his barony; and that, on a vacancy, they should elect their priors, reserving, however, the right of approval to himself.

The archdeacon of Canterbury claimed the privilege of installing the prior of Leeds, on which occasions he remained two nights and a day, receiving his meat and drink during that period, but nothing further.

In the 8th of Richard II. the whole of the spiritualities and temporalities of this priory were valued at £220 12 8.

Under the above reign, Thomas Hazlewood, who was then canon here, in his old age, applied himself to reading and writing history, having been author of many works, and among others, a volume entitled *A Compendious Chronicle.*

King Richard III. in his first year, confirmed the liberties of this priory; and James Goldewelle, LL.D. bishop of Norwich, in

the reign of Henry VII. finding this convent deeply in debt, and the monks unable to support their usual hospitality, relieved them munificently, when they, in consequence, acknowledged him in some degree as their founder. The above prelate being more desirous for the health of his soul, than the repayment of the money advanced, founded a chantry of one priest at the altar of the Virgin Mary, in the south part of the nave of this conventual church, to which the prior and convent acceded, by their instrument, dated in 1487. On the 22d of December, 1534, in the reign of Henry VIII. the prior and convent of the house or priory of Lyddis, signed the Act of Supremacy and Succession, at which period there were a prior, sub-prior, and ten canons, in this establishment, all of whom signed the instrument alluded to.

In this situation it remained till the 31st of Henry VIII. when an Act was passed for confirming to the king and his successors all religious houses which had been suppressed since the former Act of the 27th of that reign, or which might be in future suppressed. In consequence of this, the prior and convent of Leeds, among others, were in a manner constrained to surrender their house, lands, and possessions, then valued at £362 7 7 per annum, into the king's hands. Thomas Day was the last prior, who surrendered this establishment, in 1539, to Henry VIII. after which he had a pension of £80 a year allowed him.

The prior of Leeds was summoned to parliament in the reign of Henry III. but we do not find any summons directed to him subsequent to that period.

The chartulary, or ledger-book of this priory, was in the possession of Sir Beversham Filmer, bart.

Leeds abbey, by which name it had been long known, appears from its ruins to have been a very spacious structure. The church, from report, was in size and beauty equal to many of our cathedrals, and once contained a very fine statue of the Virgin, placed beside the altar of St. Catherine. There were also altars dedicated to St. Martin and St. Anne.

Leland states, in his Itinerary, vol. vi. p. 7, that three of the Crevequer's were buried here. Guido Mone, prebendary of Stowlonga, in Lincoln cathedral, and afterwards bishop of St. David's, died at Charlton, in Kent, in 1407, and was also interred here. There are no remains of this church left.

The year after the dissolution of this priory, the king granted

to Sir Anthony St. Leger, for twenty-one years, the house and site of this priory, at the yearly rental of £22 17 2, with all appurtenances thereunto belonging, containing together 323 acres. Sir Anthony St. Leger died possessed of this estate in 1559, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Warham, of Ulcomb, who in the 15th of Elizabeth vested it in trustees, for the sale of the same, who soon after passed the property away to one Norden, who conveyed it to Francis Colepeper, esq. of Greenway court, in Hollingborne, and he again transmitted it to Norden. The latter then alienated it to William Covert, esq. whose son William resided here, new built the front of the mansion, and repaired a considerable part of the priory. Over a stone portal, on the west side of the latter, the initials of his name, W. C., and the date, 1598, were still remaining some years back.

In the 6th of James I. he sold this priory, or abbey of Leeds, as it was then called, with the lands belonging to the same, then held *in capite*, to Sir William Meredith, of Stansty, in Denbighshire, then residing at Vintners, in Boxley, who ultimately removed to this priory.

His son, William Meredith, esq. was of Leeds abbey, and bore for his arms, *Azure, a lion rampant, gules, or,* and in the 14th of James I., purchased, of Sir Warham St. Leger, other lands and woods in the adjoining parishes, held in like manner; who, six years after, A. D. 1622, was created a baronet. He had by his first wife six sons and six daughters, of whom Richard, the second, but eldest surviving son, succeeded him in title. One of the daughters married Sir Henry Oxenden, bart. of Deane, from whom the late Sir George Oxenden was descended. He died in 1675, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Richard Meredith, who had six sons and five daughters, of whom Sir William was of Leeds abbey, and died unmarried. Henry, the second son, was a colonel in the army, and left an only daughter, Susanna, who died in 1711, at Leeds abbey, during her father's lifetime. Richard, the third son, succeeded his brother William in the title, and in this seat, and died unmarried. Thomas, the fourth son, represented this county in parliament in the 12th year of William III. and died before his brothers. Philip died unmarried, when Roger, the sixth son, succeeded to the title and estate.

Sir Roger Meredith, bart. resided at Leeds abbey, and in 1727

represented this county in Parliament. He married Mary, daughter of Francis Tyssen, esq. of Shacklewell, and dying in 1738, was buried in a vault in the south chancel of this church, where a handsome monument was erected to his memory. He devised this estate to his niece Susanna, daughter of his brother Colonel Henry Meredith, in tail general, with remainder to several different persons in tail male.

Mrs. Susanna Meredith resided at Leeds abbey, where she died unmarried in 1758, and her uncle, Sir Roger, having omitted to devise the fee of this estate, after the above-mentioned remainders, it became vested in her as the sole heir; she therefore, by will, devised the fee of the same to her heir at law, Sir George Oxenden, bart., the direct descendant of her grandfather (Sir Richard Meredith)'s sister, Elizabeth. On Mrs. Meredith's death, unmarried, Walter Hooper, esq. of London, the intermediate remainders having ceased, became possessed of the limitations in Sir Roger's will, of this seat and estate, and resided here, where he died in 1758. The property then went by the entail above mentioned, to his nephew, William Sumper, esq. of Stockbury, as tenant in tail male, who likewise resided here, and in 1761 served the office of sheriff for this county. He joined with Sir George Oxenden, in whom the fee was vested by Miss Meredith's will, in the sale of this estate, in 1765, to John Calcraft, esq. of Ingress, who made considerable improvements and additions to the house and grounds adjoining. He bore for his arms, *per fess argent and ermine, three lions passant guardant, in pale sable, all within a bordune wavy, azure,* which armorial bearings were granted in 1770, and he died possessed of this property in 1772, devising this, among his other estates, to his eldest son, John Calcraft, esq., who married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Pym Hales, bart., deceased; he resided here, possessing also a manor belonging to the same, called *Barnes Garden,* for which a court-baron is regularly held.

In the Hamlet of Nash, in this parish, about a quarter of a mile westward from Leeds park, is a house called Battle Hall, which, from the remains of Gothic architecture, seems to be of considerable antiquity, as there is still left a large stone arch, supported by two images, which reach nearly to the summit of the house; there is also a doorcase of stone, wherein is a

groove for a portcullis, which appears to have led into some place of safety; and on the opposite side of the mansion, is a receptacle for holy water. Some writers have conjectured this to have been the place where Robert de Crevequer, founder of Leeds castle, had placed the three canons, whom he afterwards removed to Leeds priory. But the chief part of this building seems to be of a much later date, and if such had been the purpose for which it was originally intended, the house must have been since rebuilt.

Be this, however, as it may, the whole remained a lay fee, and in the reign of Henry VII. was in the possession of Robert Chambre, who in the 16th year of that reign released his claim and right to Robert Wotton, gent. of Boughton Malherb. It afterwards became the property of the Covert's, of Leeds abbey, with whom it remained till Sir John passed it away to Mr. Harsnet. After some intermediate owners it devolved to the possession of Mr. Samuel Quested, when the latter passed it by sale to the Hon. Robert Fairfax, who repaired and fitted it up for his residence, until his removal to Leeds castle. On his demise it became, with the residue of his estates, the property of his nephew, the Rev. Denny Martin Fairfax, as before mentioned.

Leeds is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. The church, which is situated at a small distance northward from Leeds street, is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and contains three aisles and three chancels, with a remarkably low square tower at the west end, surmounted by a small spire. There are some remains of good painted glass in the windows.

The north chancel has belonged, out of memory, to the possessors of Leeds abbey, wherein are interred many of the family of the Meredith's, whose monuments still remain, particularly a superb marble mausoleum, richly embellished with armorial bearings, in memory of Jane, daughter of Sir Thomas Palmer, widow of Sir William Meredith, bart., the first purchaser of Leeds Abbey estate. She afterwards married John earl of Carberry, and died in 1643. The south chancel was purchased by that family some years ago, of the Wollet's; wherein is also a vault where Sir Roger Meredith lies buried, having a handsome monument erected to his memory.

Robert de Crevequer, when he founded the priory of Leeds,

Drawn by Geo. Shepherd.

Engraved by H. Smith

CHEPING CHURCH AND THE REMAINS OF THE ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE.

KENT

gave to the canons the advowsons of the churches of Leeds and Bromfield, with fifty acres of land in this parish; which gift was confirmed by several of his descendants, as they were by Edward III. in his 41st year, by letters of *inspeximus*.

In the 8th of Richard II. the church of Leeds was valued at £13 6 8 per annum, the whole profits being then in the possession of this priory, the cure being supplied by the religious themselves. In this situation it continued till the dissolution, in the 31st of Henry VIII., when it was, with all its possessions, surrendered to the king, as before mentioned. The following year, that prince demised, among other premises, to Sir Anthony St. Leger, the rectory, with the chapel of Bromfelde, and their appurtenances, lately belonging to the priory there, for twenty-one years, at the yearly rental of £20. But the fee remained in the crown, till Queen Elizabeth, in her 3d year, having taken into her own hands several manors, lands, &c., parcel of the revenue of the see of Canterbury, granted to Archbishop Parker various rectories and parsonages in exchange for the same, among which latter was this rectory or parsonage of Leeds, with its appurtenances, the property having ever since continued parcel of the possessions of his successors, archbishops of Canterbury.

Soon after the above-mentioned exchange, the archbishop demised this rectory, and the chapel of Bromfield, with all tithes, excepting the advowson of the church of Leeds, to Jerome Millicent, and Thomas Brett, for their lives; the latter of whom conveyed the lease to William Covert, esq. to whom Archbishop Whitgift, in the reign of Elizabeth, granted a lease for twenty-one years, at £20 per annum, and the like exception, with a covenant for the tenant to repair all buildings, and the chancel of the church of Leeds, and chapel of Bromfield. Since that period it has been held in lease of the several archbishops, in the same manner; the term renewable every seven years, by the possessors of Leeds abbey: and as such, the interest of the same was vested in John Calcraft, esq. of Leeds abbey.

The cure of the church of Leeds, previous to the surrender of the priory, having been constantly served by one of the monks there, no vicarage was endowed. After the dissolution of the priory, therefore, it was esteemed as a perpetual curacy, in the gift of the possessor of the rectory, and was subsequently granted to the see of Canterbury.

The ancient stipend or pension to the curate of Leeds was, in the reign of Elizabeth, £7 6 8, and to the curate of Bromfield, £5; which continued till the Restoration of Charles II., when Archbishop Juxon, in conformity with the king's letters mandatory, augmented this curacy, by adding the sum of £30 per annum, to be paid by the lessee of the great tithes of this parish, to the former old pension of £12 6 8.

About the year 1765, Sir Philip Boteler, bart., of Teston, gave £200 towards the augmentation of this curacy, which was increased by the same sum from the governors of Queen Anne's bounty.

It is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of £44 14 4.

In 1821 there were ninety-nine dwellings in the parish of Leeds; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 255, females 260, making a total of 515 souls.

Bromfield is the next parish south-eastward from Leeds, called, in Domesday, *Brumfelle*, which probably derived its appellation from the quantities of broom and heath with which the largest portion of this parish was then covered.

The parish of Bromfield extends towards the north, as far as Leeds castle, part of which, as well as the park, stand within its boundaries.

The Lenham rivulet flows through the northern part, near which stream is some fertile meadow ground. The church is situated on a rise, on the northern side of the parish, which is but of moderate extent, from east to west; above the church, the land is poor and heathy; there is also a warren, which was, for a long period, in the possession of the owners of Leeds castle, as it was afterwards in that of Dr. Fairfax. Towards the south, the parish extends farther, nearly two miles, quite across Kingswood, (a large tract of woodland, being three miles long, by one broad,) to Chartway street, approximating to the summit of the quarry hills. The northern side of this street is in the parish; that opposite, in East Sutton; near which the soil partakes much of the quarry stone. There is no village; and, towards the eastern part, is the small manor of Roses. Besides the

above, there is nothing further worthy of notice in this district.

This place was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday. After his disgrace, the property, with the adjoining parish of Leeds, was granted by the Conqueror to the noble family of the Crevequer's, of whom it was afterwards held by a family which thence derived its surname. William de Bromfield held it in the reign of Henry II. as one quarter of a knight's fee; and, in the reign of Edward I., Henry de Hoo held this estate of the barony of Crevequer; subsequent to which, it appears to have been blended in the same vicissitude of owners as the manor of Leeds, previously described.

Bromfield is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. The church, dedicated to St. Margaret, was given by Robert de Crevequer to the priory of Leeds on his foundation of the same, together with that of Leeds, and the advowsons of all the churches of the barony of Crevequer, which gift was confirmed from time to time by his descendants, and by Edward III. in his 41st year, by his letters of *inspeximus*, as well as by several archbishops of Canterbury. It then appears to have been esteemed as a chapel to the church of Leeds, and as such was included in the several valuations made of that church. In the above state it continued till the dissolution of the priory, under Henry VIII., when it was surrendered to that monarch, and has since been regarded as a chapel to the church of Leeds, down to the present time, under the like circumstances, having been held on lease by John Calcroft, esq., of Leeds abbey.

In 1821 there were twenty-one dwellings in the parish of Bromfield; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 62, females 53, making a total of 115 souls.

Bersted lies the next parish north-westward from Leeds, and was anciently written *Bergestede*, having, most probably, derived its name from the situation, *Berg*, in Saxon, signifying a hill, and *stede*, a place or village.

The parish stands on what may be termed high ground,

being extremely pleasant and very dry. The soil is, in general, a deep sand, though towards the south-east part it partakes of the quarry rock, and on the south side of the Lenham river, presents a black moorish soil, of fertile meadow ground. This current parts it, towards the south, from Ofham stream, another smaller rivulet, which rises near Boxley, separating it, on the western side, from that parish and Maidstone, leaving within its boundaries a portion of the hamlet of Maginford. Added to the above, this parish is watered by two or three smaller rivulets, which rise northward, and run into the Lenham river, the eastern current separating it from Hollingborne and Leeds. The high road from Ashford and Lenham, towards Maidstone, runs along the northern boundaries, passing over Bersted green, the houses round which form the parish village. Near this stands the church ; and there are also two other hamlets, called Ware and Roseacre streets. In the south-east part of the parish, is the seat of Milgate, pleasantly situated, and surrounded by wood; at the back of which the ground descends to the river; and, at a small distance, is that of Lower Milgate, so called from being upon a less elevated soil.

The noble family of Bertie claims the present parish as its most ancient habitation in this kingdom, as that name is said to have possessed lands herein, near the parsonage at Strutton street, and elsewhere in this neighbourhood, as early as the reign of King Henry II.; while, among the Harleian MSS. is a grant of arms, under Henry VI., to Bartie, of Berested, in Kent. The above line continued here under Henry VII., as appears from a rental of that period, and there are still lands, called Barty lands, in this parish and Thurnham. From those of that name settled here, in a direct line, was descended the dukes of Ancaster, and from them the lady Willoughby, of Eresby, as well as the earls of Abingdon, and other distinguished branches of this family.

The manors of Leeds, Moathall, and Thurnham, extend over this parish, wherein there is an estate belonging to the former, which has constantly passed through the same succession of owners from the family of the Crevequer's, who were proprietors of the same in the reign of the Conqueror, to the late Rev. Denny Martin Fairfax, of Leeds castle.

MILGATE was an eminent seat in the south-eastern part of

this parish, and formerly esteemed a manor, though it has long since lost the reputation of that name.

The family of Cologne anciently possessed this estate, one of whom, Robert, died inheritor of the same in the 35th of Edward III. In process of time, his descendants acquired the name of Coluney, as appears by an old survey of Bersted, in the reign of Edward IV.; soon after which, under Henry VII., it was the property of a family of the name of Stonehouse, whose ancient seat was at Hazlewood, in Boughton Malherb.

Robert Stonehouse, esq., was of Bersted, at the latter end of the reign of King Henry VIII. His son, George, was clerk of the green cloth to Queen Elizabeth, and resided at West Peckham, where he died in 1575, whose eldest son was created a baronet in the reign of Charles I.; and Nicholas, his second, was of Boxley, in this county. He bore for his arms *Argent on a fess, sable, between three hawks volant azure, a leopard's face between two mullets, or.* At the commencement of the reign of Elizabeth, he alienated this seat to Thomas Fludd, esq., of Morton, in Shropshire. He resided at Milgate, where he died in 1607, and was buried in this church, having considerably improved and augmented this seat.

His son, Thomas Fludd, esq., afterwards of Otham, succeeded him in this estate, which he alienated, in 1624, to William Cage, of Farringdon, in Hampshire, barrister at law, who resided here, being descended from Richard Cage, of Packenham, in Suffolk. In his descendants it continued down to William Cage, esq., who was of Milgate, sheriff in 1695, and represented the city of Rochester in several Parliaments during Queen Anne's reign. His second son possessed Milgate, where he resided, and left one son, Lewis, and a daughter, Catherine; when, upon his death, Lewis succeeded, and afterwards resided at this estate.

At a small distance westward from Milgate, is a good house, called Combes, otherwise Lower Milgate, which, on the death of William Cage, esq., devolved to his youngest son, John. It was afterwards the property of Mrs. Brander, widow of Gustavus Brander, esq., and daughter of Francis Gulston, esq., by a daughter of William Cage, esq.

Moat Hall is a manor in this parish, the mansion of which, from the materials whereof it was built, was called *Stonehouse.*

It anciently belonged to the neighbouring priory of Leeds, as appears by several old boundaries and papers, and was, most probably, part of those demesnes given at its first foundation by Robert de Crevequer, in the reign of Henry I. These demesnes appear, by a rental of the time of King Henry VII., to have been held of the manor of Leeds, though they have been long since accounted parcel of this manor of Moat hall.

On the dissolution of the priory, in the reign of Henry VIII., this manor, among the rest of its possessions, was surrendered to the king, who afterwards settled it on his dean and chapter of Rochester.

There is a court-baron held for this manor.

At a small distance southward from the church, lies an estate called Otteridge, formerly *Oterashe,* which, in the reign of Henry VIII., belonged to Simon Bertyn, one of the brethren of St. Bartholomew's hospital, near Sandwich, who by will, in 1530, devised it to Jeffry Merchant, of Rainham.

It afterwards passed into the possession of the family of the Munn's, where it remained for several generations, till sold by one of that name, with Aldington, in the adjoining parish of Thurnham, to William Sheldon, esq., whose descendant, Richard, at his death, bequeathed it to his widow. She remarrying William Jones, M. D., entitled him to the same, who died in 1780, leaving, by the above lady, two daughters, Mary, married to Lock Rollinson, esq. of Oxfordshire; and Anne, to Thomas Russell, esq., who, in right of their wives, respectively possessed this property.

Bersted is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. The church, situated on high ground, at a small distance southward of Bersted green, is dedicated to the *Holy Cross;* being a handsome building, consisting of two aisles and the same number of chancels, with a square beacon tower at the west end. On the summit of the former, on three corners, are the figures of *three dogs, or bears sejant,* for, being greatly defaced by time, their forms are merely conjectured. If they represent the latter, they might have been placed there in allusion to the name of the parish; if not, these figures were, perhaps, the crest of the founder of the church. In the Milgate chancel, are monuments for the family of the Cage's, and for Robert Fludd, M. D. There is also a me-

morial for William Godfrey, jun., A.D. 1690; with many more, too numerous for insertion.

The church of Berghestede, with all its rights and appurtenances, was given, in the reign of Henry I., by Robert de Crevequer, to the priory of Leeds, then founded by him; which gift was confirmed by Baldwin archbishop of Canterbury, under Henry II., who then appropriated this church, to the canons established there, towards the finding of lights and ornaments for their church. Archbishops Theobald and Hubert sanctioned this gift; as did also John the prior, and the convent of Christ church, in 1278, by the description of the church of Berghestede, with the tithes of Strutton.

This church, together with the advowson of the vicarage, remained part of the possessions of the priory of Leeds till its dissolution, in the reign of Henry VIII., when it was surrendered to the king, among other estates belonging thereto; and that monarch shortly after settled it on his new made dean and chapter of Rochester.

On the intended dissolution of deans and chapters, after the death of Charles I., the possessions of the dean and chapter of Rochester, in this parish, were surveyed in 1649, by order of the state, when it was returned, that the parsonage or rectory of Bersted consisted of a messuage and barns, which, with the tithes and glebe land, of forty acres, were of the improved rental of £16 8 per annum, which were let, under Charles I., at the yearly rental of £9 13 4.

The vicarage is a discharged living, and was estimated, in the king's books, at the clear, yearly, certified value of £30, the yearly tenths being 12s. 9d.; and in 1649 it was estimated, in the above-mentioned survey, at £20 per annum.

Freeman Sonds, second son of Sir George Sonds, of Lees court, having been executed at Penenden heath, August 21, 1655, for the unfortunate murder of his elder brother, the corpse was conveyed the same day to Bersted church, and there interred.

In 1821 there were 107 dwellings in the parish of Bersted; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 257, females 309, making a total of 566 souls.

Otham is the next parish southward from Bersted, and, although situated within the hundred of Eyhorne, is yet within the civil jurisdiction of the mayor and corporation of the town and parish of Maidstone. This jurisdiction, as the charter expresses it, extends only to the cognizance and determination of actions and replevins, and to no other purpose whatsoever.

This parish is much covered with woods, especially the western part. Towards the north it is bounded, from Bersted, by the Lenham rivulet, which here turns Otham mill: the soil in the southern part is poor, consisting of a loose red earth, intermixed with gravel; towards the north-west, near Willington street and Maidstone, it partakes of the quarry stone, and is much more fertile, producing both fruit and hops; the northern part consists of a fine loam, the lands letting from 20s. to 30s. per acre, which adjoin the rivers; the meadows are also very prolific. Near the centre of the parish, is Gore court, a low modernised building, almost surrounded by wood; and at no great distance, stands the parsonage. The church is at the back of Gore court; and at the distance of about half a mile, in a more open country, is Otham street; beyond which, is the manor of Stoneacre.

Otham was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday. On his disgrace, it devolved to the crown, and then appears to have been held by a family which thence derived its name. Peter de Otham held this estate as one knight's fee, in the reign of Henry III., as appears by the *Testa de Nevil,* and it seems that he also held it *in sergeantry.* His daughter and heir, Loretta, carried it in marriage to William de Valoigns, whose family possessed large estates in the eastern parts of this county.

William de Valoigns is mentioned in the *Testa de Nevil* as having paid aid for lands at Petham, Ashford, and Otham, in the 10th of Edward I. His wife, Loretta, survived him, and possessed this estate, which she afterwards gave to her two sons, Walter and Robert de Valoigns, by the description of the manor of Otham, with the advowson of the church; and, in the *Iter* of J. de Berewick and his associates, in the reign of Edward I., she produced the deed of this gift, which is recorded in that Iter

at full length. They held it, in the reign of Edward II., as one knight's fee, of the honour of Albermarle; but, in the 20th of Edward III., it was partly alienated from the above family, as Isabel widow of Walter de Valoigns, Richard Colyn, and Master Nicholas de Sandwich, then paid respective aid for it. Nicholas de Sandwich appears to have died possessed of this manor in 1370, being then rector of this parish. He lies buried in the church, having been a younger son of the Sandwich's, of Sandwich, in this county, and bore for his arms, *Or on a chief dancette, azure, a mullet argent, for difference.* This estate then passed to the family of Fremingham, as John, son of Sir Ralph de Fremingham, of Lose, died in the 12th of Henry IV. possessed, among other premises, of the manor and advowson of the church of Otham, who leaving no issue, he devised this estate by will to feoffees. They, in the following year, assigned this property over, according to his directions, to John, son of Reginald de Pimpe, and his heirs male, with remainder to Roger Isle, as being the nearest in blood to him. His descendant, Reginald, died possessed of the property in the 23d of Henry VIII.; after which, this manor and advowson passed into the possession of Sir Henry Isley, who soon afterwards conveyed the same to Thomas Hendley, esq., of Cousehorne, in Cranbrooke, whose ancestor was Walter Hendley, esq., of that place, who married the daughter of John Hales, baron of the Exchequer. They bore for arms *Pale bendy, azure and gules, eight martlets, three, two, and three, or.* His descendant, John Hendley, esq. possessed the estate at the Restoration of Charles II., and married Priscilla, daughter of Thomas Fludd, esq., of Gore court, in this parish, by whom he had Bowyer Hendley, esq. sheriff in 1702; whose grandson, William Hendley, esq., of Gore court, became entitled to the fee.

Gore court is a seat in this parish, which, with other lands, called *Colyns,* otherwise *Old hole,* no doubt bore the former appellation from Richard Colyn, who was owner of Otham manor in the reign of Edward III., now usually known by the name of Otham hole. It was once esteemed part of the manor of Otham, and had the same owners, till the property devolved to Sir Henry Isley, in the reign of Henry VIII., who alienated it to Thomas Astrey; and he, in the 3d of Edward VI., conveyed it, by deed and fine, to Walter Hendley, esq. his son, and Thomas,

son of the latter. The former, the next year, released the whole of this estate to his son, who sold the same, by deed and fine, to Ralph Buffkin, esq. His armorial bearings were *Or, a chevron between three helmets, azure.* In his descendants this estate remained till the reign of James I., when it was alienated to Mr. Nathaniel Powel, of Ewehurst, in Sussex, who soon afterwards conveyed it to Thomas Fludd, esq., descended from David Fludd, of Salop. He resided here, and by Catherine his wife, daughter of Lewin Buffkin, esq., of this parish, left two sons, Thomas, and Lewin, who was M.D. Thomas Fludd, esq. the eldest, succeeded him in this seat, and was sheriff in 1652; he left two sons, Alabaster and Thomas; and a daughter, Priscilla, married to John Hendley, esq. of this parish. Alabaster Fludd, esq. his eldest son, was of Gore court, whose great grandson, in order to pay off incumbrances, conveyed this estate in trust to Mr. Benjamin Howel, gent. who, in 1712, passed it away by sale to Bowyer Hendley, esq., of this parish, sheriff in 1702, as before mentioned. He died possessed of the same in 1742, leaving two sons, William and Walter; and four daughters; of whom, Anne, the youngest, married the Rev. Samuel Horne, rector of this parish.

William Henley, the eldest son, altered the spelling of his name, leaving out the letter *d*, and resided at Gore court, where he died, and was buried here with his ancestors, leaving one son, William, and several daughters. William Henley, esq. the son, afterwards resided here, and married a foreign lady, Dorothy Hannah Louisa Harriot, said to be countess of Berghausen, in Germany, who was naturalized, by Act of Parliament, in 1781, and died in 1793. A commission of lunacy was taken out against Mr. Henley, when the Rev. Mr. Horne, his brother-in-law, came into possession of the manor of Otham, Gore court, and his other estates.

STONEACRE is a manor in the eastern part of this parish, which, for some centuries, was the seat of the family of the Elys', or Ellis, as they afterwards spelt their name; a branch of which was also seated at Kennington, in the eastern part of this county. John Ellys possessed this estate, and resided here in the reign of Edward II., and his descendant, John Elys, esq. died in 1467, who lies buried in this church. He bore for his arms *Or, on a cross, sable, five crescents argent,* as they were painted on glass,

in the windows of the church, and also in another window at Stoneacre. In his descendants this estate continued till alienated by Mr. George Ellis, about 1710, to Mr. George Waterman, whose heirs, in 1735, conveyed it by sale to William Horsemonden Turner, esq., of Harrietsham; since which it has passed, in the same manner as Harrietsham already described, down to William Baldwin, esq., of Harrietsham place.

Otham is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, contains monuments for the family of the Henley's, of this parish; and one for Lewin Buffkin, esq., of Gore court; and also a memorial for John Ellis, of Stoneacre.

It was valued in the king's books at £9 17 3½, the yearly tenths being 19s. 8½d. In 1578 the communicants were ninety-two, and in 1640 it was estimated at £45 per annum, communicants being 121.

King Edward II., in his 19th year, confirmed to the rectory of Otham, four acres of land in this parish, for a chantry.

In 1821, there were sixty-three dwellings in the parish of Otham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 165, females 172, making a total of 337 souls.

Thurnham adjoins Bersted to the northward, being written in Domesday *Turneham,* and is supposed to have taken its name from the ancient castle situated there, *Thurn,* in Saxon, signifying a tower, and *ham,* a village.

The parish of Thurnham, though healthy, is notwithstanding, from the nature of the soil, an unpleasant situation; but little frequented; and scarcely any thoroughfare. The high ridge of chalk hills cross it, close to the foot of which is the church, with the court lodge and parsonage. To the east is Aldington court, having a double avenue of trees leading almost to Bersted green, to which this parish joins, to the southward. Near the foot of the hills, the soil becomes chalky; and on the edge of the summit of the hill, are the remains of *Thurnham castle,* an account of which will be given hereafter. Hence, northward of the hill, the country is wild and dreary, lying high, and much exposed to a bleak northern aspect. The soil in this part is very poor

and wet, the land producing no more than 5s. an acre; the hedge-rows are broad, and the fields large. In the north-east district, is a great quantity of woodland, called Binbury wood, near which the Maidstone road leads through Detling, towards Stockbury valley and Key street: previous to descending the low country, is Binbury Manor pound, and distant a field or two, stands the mansion itself.

In the south part of this parish, adjoining Bersted, is a vein of *white sand,* which, when Alderman Lewin and Lady Mantle laid the foundation for the improvement of the glassworks in this kingdom, was found to be of the greatest utility in the composition for making glass. It is well known among the glass-workers by the name of *Maidstone sand;* and the pits are become famous for their large arched caverns underground.

Thurnham was a part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, of whom it was held, by Ralph de Curva Spina, or Crookthorne, as that name was called in English; the same being entered under the general title of that bishop's lands in Domesday record.

On the disgrace of that prelate, it fell to the king, and was afterwards granted to Gilbert Magminot, being held of that monarch *in capite* by barony, by the tenure of maintaining a certain number of soldiers, from time to time, for the defence of Dover castle. This manor and Binbury, in this parish, together with Kersony, in River, were parcel of the twenty-four knight's fees, which made up the barony of Magminot, of which Deptford was the head or chief.

Of the family of Magminot and of their heirs, the Says', Thurnham was held by a family which took its name from the possession of this property. Robert de Turnham held this estate in the reign of Henry II., and was the founder of the priory of Combwell, in Goudhurst, to which he gave part of his possessions in this parish. He left two sons, Robert and Stephen; the former of whom attended King Richard I. in his expedition to the holy land; he died in the 13th of King John, without issue male, and was succeeded by his brother, Stephen de Turnham, who, having ratified his father's grants to the priory of Combell, died in that reign.

At the commencement of the reign of Edward I., Sir Roger de Northwood, of Northwood, in the Isle of Sheppey, possessed

the manor of Thurnham, with Binbury, and other estates in this parish, and died in the 13th of that reign; in whose descendants, who had summonses to Parliament, they continued down to Roger de Northwood, who, on the death of his father, Sir John de Northwood, succeeded to these estates.

He alienated the manor of Thurnham to Robert Corbie, esq. of Boughton Malherb, whose sole daughter and heir carried it in marriage to Sir Nicholas Wotton. His descendant, Sir Edward, procured his lands to be *disgavelled* by the Acts of Henry VIII. and Edward VI.; and from him this manor descended to his grandson Sir Edward Wotton, of Boughton Malherb, created Lord Wotton, baron of Marley, whose son Thomas lord Wotton, dying without issue male, Catherine, his daughter and coheir, carried this manor in marriage to Henry lord Stanhope, son and heir to Philip earl of Chesterfield. He died during the life of his father, upon which his widow, lady Catherine Stanhope, became again possessed of it; and soon after transferred it by sale to Mr. John Godden, of London; whose son William, of Westwell, alienated it, in 1694, to William Cage, esq. of Bersted, and his youngest son sold this manor, together with the parsonage or rectory of Thurnham, to Sir Edward Dering, bart. of Surrenden, in this county. A court-leet and court-baron is held for the manor of Thurnham.

Binbury, anciently written *Bingebery*, is an eminent manor in this parish, lying on the summit of the chalk hills, at the north-west extremity of the same.

This manor is included, in the description in Domesday, as part of the possessions of the bishop of Bayeux, and was granted to Gilbert Magminot to hold, as before mentioned, *in capite*, by barony. It then passed, with the manor of Thurnham, to the family of that name; and subsequently to the Northwood's; during which time, in the reign of Edward III. a melancholy accident happened at Binbury, as appears by the old evidences of the Lord Wotton's family. Lady Northwood standing on a precipice of the hill to see a fox dug out, the earth, being loose and sandy, sunk under her, and the hanging hill falling down, stifled her to death with the pressure, before any assistance could be given. In the name of Northwood this manor continued, down to Roger de Northwood, who died possessed of it in the last year of Henry V. His heirs, in the next reign, passed

it away to Thomas Thwaits, who conveyed away his interest therein to William Gascoigne, of Yorkshire; and in that line it continued till the reign of Edward IV. when it was alienated to the family of the Cutt or Cutt's, whose descendant, Sir John Cutt, possessed this manor in the reign of Henry VIII. He died in 1520, and his grandson, who was of Cambridge, departed this life in 1603, soon after which his heirs alienated this manor to Sir Samuel Lennard, of West Wickham, in this county. He died possessed of the estate in 1618, and was succeeded by his eldest son Sir Stephen Lennard, created a bart. in 1642. This manor then passed in his descendants down to Miss Mary Lennard, who marrying John Farnaby, esq. he in her right possessed this property, and they, in 1785, joined in the sale of the same to James Whatman, esq. of Boxley, who exchanged it for other lands, with Heneage earl of Aylesford.

ALDINGTON, generally called *Addington*, now comprised within the bounds of this district, formerly ranked as a *distinct parish*. It was part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it stands entered in Domesday.

These two manors continued afterwards as such; ONE OF WHICH, from its situation and the noble family that possessed it, was called ALDINGTON COBHAM, or EAST COURT.

Henry de Cobham, of Cobham, was possessed of this manor in the reign of King John, and his eldest son, John de Cobham, of Cobham likewise, died possessed of it in the reign of Edward I. holding it *in capite* by the service of one knight's fee. He appears to have been succeeded herein by his next brother, William, usually styled of Aldington, who was a justice itinerant in the reigns of Henry III. and Edward I., and died far advanced in years, being succeeded in this manor by Reginald, his nephew, styled likewise Cobham of Aldington, son of his elder brother, John de Cobham, by a second wife. His son Reginald, in the reign of Edward III., procured a charter of *free warren* in all the demesne lands within his manor of Aldington. He died in that reign possessed of the estate, held of the king *in capite*, as of the castle of Rochester, by the service of paying to the ward of that castle, in lieu of every other service.

In his descendants, seated at Sterborough castle, this property continued down to Reginald de Cobham, who dying in the reign

of Henry VI. was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Thomas, whose only daughter and heir, Anne, carried it in marriage to Sir Edward Borough, of Gainsborough, in Lincolnshire. His descendant, William lord Borough, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, sold this manor of Aldington to Henry Brockhull, who likewise owned the other part of Aldington, called, from its situation, and the family that possessed it, ALDINGTON SEPTVANS, otherwise WEST COURT. Of this family of Septvans was Roger, who possessed this manor in the reign of Richard I. and he accompanied that monarch to the siege of Ascalon, in Palestine: in whose descendants it continued down to William Septvans, who died in the 25th of Edward III. holding this estate, then called West Court, or Septvans, as the moiety of the manor of Aldington, as before mentioned. It did not remain long in this name, as John Gower died possessed of it in the 39th year of that reign; from which line, not many years afterwards, it was alienated to Sir John Brockhull, in whose descendants, resident here, it continued down to Henry Brockhull, esq. of Aldington, who, in the reign of Elizabeth, purchased, of William lord Borough, the other moiety of Aldington, by the name of the manor of Aldington East Court, as previously mentioned. He died in 1596, and was buried in Bersted church, having borne for his arms, *Gules, a cross engrailed, between twelve cross croslets, fitchee argent; quartered with those of the Criols'*. He left two daughters his coheirs, Anne and Martha, the former of whom, by the death of her sister, became at length his sole heir, and marrying Mr. John Taylor, gent. entitled him to these estates, where he afterwards resided, being the grandson of William Taylor, of Shadoxhurst. He alienated this property to Sir Richard Smith, of Leeds castle, who died in 1628, and his heirs soon after conveyed them to Ralph Freke, esq. descended from those of that name situated in Dorsetshire; who, having married Cecilie, fifth daughter of Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Hollingborne, fixed his residence at Aldington West Court. She died in 1650, when he sold these estates to Mr. John Munns, of Bersted, in which name they remained till they were conveyed by sale to William Sheldon, esq. His grandson, Richard Sheldon, esq. resided at Aldington, where he was sheriff in 1717, bearing for arms, *sable, a fess between three sheldrakes, argent*, and dying in 1736, was buried in Thurnham church, having by will given these manors

to his widow. She in 1738 remarrying William Jones, esq. M.D., entitled him to this seat, and the manors of Aldington, Cobham, and West Court, at the latter of which he resided. He died in 1780, leaving two daughters his coheirs, Mary, married to Lock Rollinson, esq. of Oxfordshire, and Anne, to Thomas Russell, esq. who, in right of their wives, became respectively entitled to these manors, in the sale of which they afterwards joined to the Hon. and Rev. Jacob Marsham, LL.D., second surviving son of Lord Romney, who was possessor, and resided at Aldington Court.

THE CHURCH OF ALDINGTON was dedicated to St. Peter, and continued a separate parish-church from that of Thurnham, till it was united to the same by agreement made in 1583, between Henry Brockhull, esq. lord of the manor, and patron, and William Merrick, vicar of Thurnham, which was confirmed, *sede vacante*, by Master William Aubrey, LL.D. guardian of the see of Canterbury, and ordinary *pro tempore*. Since that period it has been accounted as a chapel to that church, in which was interred Nicholas Brockhull, esq. lord of Aldington West Court, in the reign of Edward IV.

ON THE BROW of the chalk hill are the remains of an ancient fortification, now called THURNHAM CASTLE, but formerly *Godard's castle*, and the hill on which it stands, was thence denominated *Godard's hill*.

Darell, in his treatise, *De Castellis Cantii*, affirms that this castle was founded by Godardus, a Saxon, from whom it acquired its name. Leland calls it the *castle of Thorne*, and says that in his time it was a complete ruin, and further observes, that Sir John Cutte, under-treasurer of England, bought of one Savelle, a main of fair lands in Yorkshire, as well as the lordship of Godhurste, with the ruins of a castle, meaning this of Thurnham, standing two miles from the banks of the Medway, and the same distance from Maidstone.

"This lordship at that time was partly a ground much overgrown with thornes and bushes, worth but xx marks by the year; then it was cleaned, and the value much enhanced, and much goodly wood was then about it."

Sir John Cutte was, at the above period, lord of the adjoining manor of Binbury, as before observed; but the site of the castle has been long since alienated from the possessors of that manor.

The site of Thurnham castle is on the brow of the great chalk hill, about half a mile northward of the church, and the same distance eastward from the high road, on the top of Detling hill. The remaining walls present relics of rude flints, honey-combed from the weather and length of time. That portion now standing is on the north side of the area of the castle, being about fourteen feet high, and nearly three broad. The rest of the walls are demolished to the foundations, which are, however, still visible, the area containing about a quarter of an acre of ground. On the east side was the keep, being an artificial mound, in the centre of which there is an hollow, as if the ground had fallen in, and filled a cavity beneath. It appears to have been walled round, especially towards the south, where the chalk below having been dug away perpendicularly up to the bottom of the foundations, they have most of them been precipitated into the pit beneath, where large fragments remain. The entrance seems to have been from the north.

It is very probable from the Roman urns, and other remains of that nation, found about this hill, that the fortress was first erected by that people, having in all probability been one of their *speculatory stations, or watch-towers*, as well to secure this pass, as overlook the approaches of their enemies through the valley below.

THURNHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a small building, consisting of one aisle and two chancels, with a low pointed steeple at the west end. It contains monuments of the Sheldon family, several of whom lie buried here, as also a memento to Sir Henry Cutts in the chancel, founded in honour of him by Lady Barbara, his widow, who afterwards married William Covert, esq. of Boxley, and dying in 1618, was also interred here.

This church, with its lands and appurtenances, called *Hoch* and *Casteye*, were given among other premises, in the reign of Henry II. by Robert de Thurnham, to the priory of Combwell, at Goudhurst, founded by him; which gift was confirmed by his son, Stephen de Thurnham, and Henry III. To this rectory belonged a manor called NEWENHAM, otherwise THE RECTORY OF THURNHAM, which, with its appendages, consisting of certain premises and lands, called *Howe court* and *Canons' barns*,

remained in the possession of the priory till the 27th of Henry VIII. when, on the suppression of all religious houses, it was surrendered to the king. These premises, in the parish of Thurnham, remained but a short time in the hands of the crown, as that monarch, in his 29th year, granted them to Thomas Colepeper to hold *in capite*, by knight's service; but he did not possess them long, for it appears by the escheat rolls, that they were again vested in the crown in the 34th year of the same reign, that monarch having granted the rectory of Thurnham, among other premises, to Sir John Gage, comptroller of his household, to hold in like manner. He alienated this estate to Sir Edward Wotton, who died in the 6th of Edward VI. and from him it descended in the same way as the manor of Thurnham, above described, till it devolved to the possession of John Cage, esq. of Combe, who sold the *parsonage or rectory impropriate*, to Sir Edward Dering, bart. His son of the same name afterwards possessed it, but the *advowson of the vicarage*, with the rectory of Aldington annexed, was sold by him in 1740 to Mr. Joseph Smallwell, of Maidstone, who in 1753 conveyed it to Mr. Henry Hodson, whose son, the Rev. Henry Hodson, vicar of this parish, was afterwards entitled to the property.

In the 8th of Richard II. the church of Thurnham, with Aldington, was valued at £33 6 8, and in 1640 at £40 per annum, the communicants being 157. This vicarage was valued in the king's books at £8 0 10, and the yearly tenths at 16s. 1d.

The vicarage of Thurnham, with the church of Aldington annexed, is endowed with all kinds of vicarial tithes.

In 1821, there were sixty-four dwellings in the parish of Thurnham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 269, females 254, making a total of 523 souls.

HAVING THUS DESCRIBED *the southern part of this hundred*, lying below the chalk hills, we proceed to the remaining portion of the same, situated above, or on their northern side, commencing with the parish of *Otterden*, which lies almost on the summit of the hills alluded to.

OTTERDEN lies the next parish northward from Lenham,

being written in Domesday *Ottringedene,* in ancient deeds *Otteringden,* and in later documents *Ottringden,* otherwise *Otterden.*

The north-west part of this parish, near the valley which divides the church and Hall place, including Otterden place, and the dilapidated church of Monketon, is in *the division of West Kent,* and the remaining, or south-eastern part, including Hall place, the site of the ruin of Boardfield church, together with the hamlet, is in that of *East Kent.*

The parish of Otterden lies a little more than a mile from the summit of the chalk hills, and is much exposed to the bleak north-easterly winds. The hills are frequent and steep, and the land in general very poor and barren, consisting of a loose red earth, mixed with flints. There is much coppice wood, chiefly consisting of beech, intermixed at different intervals with hazel and birch, with a few ash trees, and willow stubs. The roads are very narrow, and from the steepness of the hills, and the loose flints, extremely unpleasant and unsafe for travellers.

Near the centre of the parish is Otterden place, situated on an eminence, commanding a very extensive prospect towards the north-east, over the neighbouring country; and the channel beyond it. It is a very large pile of building, the most ancient part being apparently of the time of Henry VIII. though some portion was afterwards taken down to lessen the fabric. At the distance of about one hundred yards is the new church of Otterden, which from its form, and having no steeple, looks more like an apartment belonging to the mansion; and about half a mile distant, westward, is the parsonage.

There is a small village, containing a few houses, called Otterden street: the cottages, in general standing single and dispersed, are very meanly built; in short, poverty and health may be truly said to form the characteristics of these parts, as well as of most of those throughout this county which lie on the range of the hills.

THIS PLACE was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record. Upon the disgrace of that dignitary, the property was confiscated to the crown, when this manor fell into the ownership of a family which thence assumed its name. Ralph de Ottringden held it of William de Leyborne, as one

knight's fee, in the reign of Henry III. His grandson, Sir Laurence, died possessed of it under Edward II. leaving an only daughter and heir, who conveyed it in marriage to the Peyforer's, from which name it passed into that of Potyn, one of whom, Nicholas, held it in the reign of Richard II., and leaving an only daughter, Juliana, she carried it in marriage to Thomas St. Leger, second son of Sir Ralph, of Ulcomb. He afterwards resided at Otterden, where he was sheriff in the above reign, and dying in the 10th of Henry IV., was buried under a tomb erected for him in this church, near the high altar. His arms were, *Fretty on a chief, two mullets, empaling semee of fleur de lis.* He left one daughter and heir, Joan, and his widow, surviving; she died possessed of this manor in the reign of Henry V., on which, Joan, their daughter, then wife of Henry Aucher, esq. of Losenham, in Newenden, entitled her husband to the possession of the same. He was the son of Henry, the eldest son of Nicholas Aucher, of Losenham; and married, first, Isabella At-Towne, of Throwleigh, by whom he had two sons, Thomas, of Losenham, and Robert, ancestor of the Aucher's, of Westwell. By his second wife, Joan, he had an only son, Henry, who succeeded to the manor of Otterden, and resided here. This branch of the family of the Aucher's bore for arms four coats quarterly; first, *Aucher, ermine on a chief azure, three lions rampant, or;* second, *St. Leger fretty azure and argent, on a chief, or two mullets gules;* third, *Potyn argent semee of fleur de lis, azure;* fourth, *Ottringden ermine a cross voided, gules.* He died in 1502, and was interred in the north chapel of this church, his son also dying in 1508, who was buried at his father's feet. On his grave-stone were his effigies in brass, and on the corner of the same, two shields of arms, one containing the coat of Aucher, the other, two coats *per fess;* the upper one that of *Otterden,* the lower *St. Leger;* and at the bottom of the stone, in the centre, was *the first* of these shields *empaling the second.* His eldest son, Sir Anthony Aucher, married Affra, daughter of William Cornwallis, by whom he left three sons; John, was of Otterden; Edward, of Bishopsborne, whose descendants were baronets; and William was afterwards of Nonington.

John Aucher, esq. of Otterden place, the eldest son, left an only daughter and heir, Joan; who, in the reign of Elizabeth, married Sir Humphrey Gilbert, and entitled him to this manor

and seat. He passed them away, in that reign, to William Lewin, LL.D., who was master in chancery, judge of the prerogative court of Canterbury, chancellor of Rochester, commissary of the faculties, and dean of the peculiars, &c. He intended during his life, to have been buried in Otterden church, where a superb monument was erected to his memory, in the north chancel.

Sir Justinian Lewin, his eldest son, succeeded him in this manor, and resided here; who died in 1620, and was buried in this church, where a costly monument was erected to his memory. He left an only daughter and heir, Elizabeth, who carried the property in marriage to Richard Rogers, esq., of Brianston, in Somersetshire, who dying without issue male, his daughter, Elizabeth, conveyed it in marriage, first, to Charles Cavendish, lord Mansfield; and secondly, to Charles Stuart, duke of Richmond and Lenox, who, by fine and recovery, in 1661, sold this manor and seat to George Curteis, esq., afterwards knighted.

Sir George Curteis resided at Otterden place, where he died in 1702, and was buried in the north chancel of this church, having borne for his arms *Argent, a chevron, between three bulls' heads, caboshed, sable.* He left one son and heir, George Curteis, esq., who succeeded his father in this estate, and died in 1710, leaving an only daughter, Anne, who carried it in marriage to Thomas Wheler, esq., eldest son of Sir George, D.D., prebendary of the church of Durham. Mr. Wheler died in 1716, and his widow surviving, carried this estate, within a few months after, in marriage to Humphrey Walcot, esq., of Worcestershire; who, in 1725, joined with her in the sale of this property to Granville Wheler, esq., her first husband's next surviving brother, who afterwards resided at Otterden place. He entered into holy orders, and became prebend of Lake, in Nottinghamshire. He was very scientific, and made many discoveries in electricity, having also proved, in other points of natural philosophy, an ingenious and learned member of the Royal Society. Among numerous private and public benefactions, he made an addition to that already given by his father to Wye school; having also been a liberal contributor to this parish. He died at Otterden place in 1770, and was interred in the vault under the new church, which he had rebuilt. He was twice married; first, to Catherine, daughter of Theophilus Hastings, earl of Huntingdon; and

secondly, to Mary, daughter of John Dove, esq., by whom he had no issue; but, by his first lady, he had two sons and four daughters; Theophilus, the eldest, died unmarried; Granville, the second, became his father's heir, and succeeded to this manor, with the seat of Otterden place, where he for some time resided, but going abroad, died at Dunkirk in 1786, and was brought over to be interred in this church. He married Sybilla Christiana, second daughter of Robert Haswell, esq., of London, and left one son, an infant. She married, secondly, the Rev. John Tattersall, chaplain to his majesty, who, with his wife, as guardians of her son, possessed this manor and estate.

Boardfield, otherwise Bonesfield, is a hamlet in the southern part of this parish, and lies within the limits of the *hundred of Faversham*, having once ranked a parish of itself, and possessed a church of its own. The manor was for many descents the property of that branch of the family of Cobham, which, from possessing Sterborough castle, in Surrey, was generally styled of that place. Reginald, son of John de Cobham, of Cobham, in this county, by his second wife, possessed this manor in the reigns of King Edward II. and III., in whose descendants, of the same name, it continued, down to Reginald de Cobham, who died possessed of this manor in the 24th of Henry VI., being succeeded therein by his eldest son, Sir Thomas Cobham. He died in the 11th of Edward IV., leaving an only daughter and sole heir, Anne, who carried this property in marriage to Sir Edward Borough, of Gainsborough, in Lincolnshire, whose descendant, William lord Borough, in the 12th of Queen Elizabeth, alienated it to John Pakenham. The latter then passed this estate away by sale to William Lewin, LL.D.; after which it devolved, in the same manner as Otterden, and in the same line of ownership, down to Granville Wheler, esq., whose only son, Granville, an infant, was subsequently entitled to the inheritance of the same.

The church of Burdefield was anciently part of the possessions of the *nunnery of Davington*, near Faversham; upon the dissolution of which, and before many years had elapsed, this church, most probably, became a ruin, for when Philipott wrote his *Villare*, in the reign of Charles I., there was scarcely one stone left upon another. The bounds of the churchyard are, however, yet visible, and lie at the corner of a field, which being

converted into tillage, the plough, in its progress over the same, frequently turns up large stones, which had formed a part of this dilapidated church. The land surrounding this spot belongs to a farm called Waterditch, being the property of the same owners as now possess the manor of West Shelve, in Lenham.

It was formerly a rectory of itself, but is now only esteemed a chapel, united to the parish-church of Otterden; the patronage of which was in possession of the family of the Lewin's, and passed from that name, in the same way as the manor of Boardfield and Otterden, to Granville Wheler, esq., who alienated the advowson of the church of Otterden, with the chapels of Boardfield and Monketon annexed, to Edward Brydges, esq., of Wotton court. He died in 1781, and his son, the Rev. Edward Timewell Brydges, rector of this parish, afterwards possessed it.

Monketon is another hamlet, situated at the north-west extremity of this parish, and was formerly accounted also a parish of itself. The manor, which extends into the parish of Newnham, seems to have been given, by Ralph Picot, to the abbey of Faversham, soon after its foundation, which gift was confirmed by Henry II. in his 11th year.

It has for many years had the same owners as the manor of Sharsted in Doddington, and passed, in a similar way, from the family of Delaune to that of Thornicroft; whence, after the demise of Mrs. Anne Thornicroft, in 1791, it went to her nephew, Alured Pinke, esq., of Sharsted.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

Frid Farm is an estate in this hamlet, being part of a considerable parcel of land here, in Newnham, and Easling, which was the property of Mathew, son of Hamon Atte Frith, who, in the reign of Henry III., gave it, by the description of all that land, with the mill thereon, in Monketon, to the nunnery of Davington, which gift was confirmed by King Henry III. in his 39th year.

After this nunnery was escheated to the crown, in the 27th of Henry VIII., the king granted the site of the same, and this estate, to Sir Thomas Cheney, to hold *in capite* by knight's service, who, in the 1st of Queen Elizabeth, died possessed of this property at Monketon, then known by the name of *Fryde farm*, corrupted, no doubt, from Frith's farm, being so named from its ancient owner. Sir Thomas was succeeded by his only

son, Henry, created lord Cheney, who, in the 3d year of the same reign, having levied a fine of all his lands, soon afterwards alienated this estate to the Godden's; from which name it passed to the Chute's, or Choute's, of Bethersden. Edward, a descendant of that line, died in the reign of Charles II., leaving Elizabeth, his daughter, sole heir, who entitled her husband, Sir James Oxenden, knight and baronet, to the possession of this property; in which name and family it continued down to Sir Henry Oxenden, bart., of Broome, in Barham, who possessed the same.

The church of Monketon has long been dilapidated, though the exact ground-plot of it is still visible, having two very large yew-trees in the vicinity. It is situated in a wood, about half an acre in extent.

The rectory of this church belonged to the nunnery of Davington, and, after being escheated to the crown, was granted, in the reign of Henry VIII., to Sir Thomas Cheney, together with Fryde farm, as before mentioned. His son, lord Cheney, sold it to the Godden's, who alienated the advowson, then esteemed a chapel to the church of Otterden, to William Lewin, LL.D.; after which it passed, in the same manner as Otterden place, to Granville Wheler, esq., who alienated the advowson of the church of Otterden, with this chapel, and Monketon annexed, to Edward Brydges, esq., whose son, the Rev. Timewell Brydges, rector of this parish, afterwards possessed the same.

HALL PLACE is a seat situated in the south-east part of this parish, and was formerly esteemed a manor, but has now lost all claim to that title.

At the period when tenants and services belonged to it, this manor was the property of Roger Rey, as appears by an ancient roll, without date, wherein mention is made of one Thomas Franklyn, who held some lands of this manor, by the yearly rent and service of *one red rose*.

In the reign of Henry VII., this estate of Hall place, then no longer a manor, was the property of one Cock; and, in the 9th year of that reign, Eugenius Cock sold it to John Bunce, gent. of this parish. His only son, James, was of Otterden, where he died, in 1606, and was buried in the south chancel, generally called Bunce's chancel. He left several sons and daughters, of whom Simon, the eldest, became his heir; James was of London;

and Stephen resided at Boughton Malherb, and dying in 1634, was buried at Throwleigh, to the Bunces of which place he was ancestor. Simon, his eldest son and heir, died possessed of this seat in 1611, leaving Anne, his only daughter and heir, married to William Brockman, esq., son and heir of Henry Brockman, esq., of Newington, near Hythe.

Soon after, this seat was alienated to Mr. Paine, steward to lord Mansfield, and afterwards to the duke of Richmond, which latter nobleman made a considerable addition to this seat, at his own expense, having erected a large and magnificent apartment, as a donation to the owner.

In his descendants, resident at this seat, it continued down to Charles Paine, esq., who died unmarried in 1741; when, having no relations to inherit his estates, he devised this seat, with the rest of his property, to Christopher Cresswell, a youth at that time in his family, and afterwards an officer in the army, who took the name of Paine, and died, unmarried, possessed of this estate, in 1764. He devised this property among his relations, who joined in the sale of the same to the Rev. James Lushington, a resident here for some years, who then passed it away to the Rev. Wanley Sawbridge, second son of John, of Ollantigh, who dying, unmarried, in 1796, intestate, this property devolved to his nephews, Samuel and Wanley Sawbridge, esqs., who accordingly possessed the same.

Herst is a manor in the western part of this parish, which, in the reign of Richard II., was possessed by Richard Atte Lose, who, by his will, directed that it should be sold, which it most probably was, to one of the family of the Filmer's, who appears to have resided here soon afterwards. In that name it continued till Richard Filmer, one of the prothonotaries of the Common Pleas, in the reign of Elizabeth, having purchased an estate in East Sutton, by Maidstone, removed thither; but this estate continued the property of his descendants till Sir Robert, at the latter end of the reign of Charles II., alienated it to the Rev. John Rumney, vicar of Sutton Valence, whose widow, Amy, sold it, in 1702, to Mr. Henry Knowles. His son, Richard, in 1763, conveyed it by sale to the Rev. Granville Wheler, esq., of Otterden place, who, with his eldest son, Granville Wheler, next year, conveyed it to the Rev. John Lowther, for the use of him and his successors, rectors of the parish of Otterden, for

ever. This estate consists of about 168 acres of land, and was sold for £1100, of which £1000 was the benefaction of lady Elizabeth Hastings, and the remaining part, of the Rev. Granville Wheler, esq., before mentioned. There has been, till within some years back, a court-baron held for this manor, though it is now disused.

Bunces Court, otherwise Pallards, is a seat in this parish, which stands near a mile southward from Otterden place. It was formerly the property of the family of the Bunce's, who resided here for some years, and from them acquired the title of *Bunces court*. Simon Bunce devised this seat to his son, James, who was a merchant of London, which city he represented in Parliament. He died possessed of the estate in 1631, having been a great benefactor to this parish, and was succeeded by his son, James Bunce, esq., sheriff of London under Charles I., who, being a zealous loyalist, endured much persecution, having suffered imprisonment in the Tower, when his estates were declared confiscated for high treason.

Upon the accession of Charles II., he was restored to his post of alderman, as well as to his estates, having received the honour of knighthood; and, as a further compensation for his sufferings for the royal family, had a warrant for a baronet's patent, which neither he or any of his descendants thought fit to take out. He left, by Sarah his wife, daughter of Thomas Gipps, esq., two sons; Sir James Bunce, knight, who succeeded to his father's possessions at Kemsing, in this county, where his descendants long remained; and John, who became, by his father's will, possessed of this seat of Bunce's court, where he resided from time to time, but ultimately removed to East Greenwich, and alienated this property to Mr. Roger Paine, of Hall place, in this parish. He, in the beginning of the last century, alienated it to one Knocke, in which name it continued till Mr. Richard Knocke, about the year 1756, passed it away by sale to Edward Chapman, esq., who made great additions to the property, and afterwards resided here. He ultimately sold it to Stringer Belcher, esq., eldest son of Edward Belcher, esq., of Ulcomb, who dying unmarried, it came to his brother, Mr. William Belcher, of Ulcomb.

The priory of Rochester was possessed of lands in this parish, called *Prior and Goodman's lands*, which, at the disso-

lution, under Henry VIII., devolved to the crown, and were granted by the above monarch, in his 33d year, to his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester.

OTTERDEN is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Ospringe. The ancient church was dedicated to St. Laurence, and consisted of two small aisles and a chancel, without any steeple, and stood about fifty yards, eastward, from the corner of Otterden place. This building being greatly decayed and ruinous, lady Elizabeth Hastings, at the instance of the Rev. Granville Wheler, patron, who had married her half-sister, among other acts of charity, devised, by her will, £400 towards the rebuilding this fabric. She died in 1739, when the above sum, with the interest, before any thing was undertaken, amounted to £500, which, with £500 more, given by Mr. Wheler, completed the rebuilding this church, which was began, and finished A. D. 1753.

The church is a most elegant building, of brick, with stone, rustic quoins and window-cases, a great portion being raised on the foundation of the old structure, the site of which was about twenty feet more towards the east, the grave-stones over the two rectors having then stood within the altar rails. There was no steeple to the former church, nor is there any to the present, which having the appearance of a modern, elegant building, does not resemble a place of divine worship, when viewed from the exterior.

The monuments of the Lewin's and Curteis's are preserved in a small recess, on the north side of the church, and have been well repaired and beautified; as also the monument of Mr. Simon Bunce and his wife, against the south wall. There are many of the latter family interred here, the last of whom were Mr. Thomas Bunce, from Maidstone, in 1706, and Mrs. Anne, from Throwleigh, in 1737. There are also several of the Paine's, of Hall place; and, in the vault beneath the church, is a memento for the family of the Wheler's.

This is a rectory, and was valued in the king's books at £6 14 2, being of the yearly certified value of £62 17 10, and the yearly tenths 13s. 5d. In 1640 it was estimated at £80, the communicants amounting to sixty-two.

The rector of Otterden is entitled to the great and small tithes of this parish, including those of the hamlets of Boardfield and

Monketon, now within the bounds of the same; the dilapidated churches of which latter places, with their appurtenances, are now annexed, as chapels, to this rectory.

The site of those churches, and about three acres of glebe land to each, are at present held by the rector, as part of the property of the rectory.

In 1821 there were twenty-six dwellings in the parish of Otterden; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 87, females 85, making a total of 172 souls.

WICHLING is the next parish northwestward from Otterden, called in Domesday *Wichelesmere*, in ancient deeds *Winchelinges*, and in later documents *Wynchelyng* and *Winchling*. The whole of this parish is situated in the *division of West Kent*, being much like that of Otterden.

It lies on the hill close to the east side of the valley, through which the road leads from Ospringe, through Doddington, to Hollingborne hill and Maidstone. The lands in this district are very barren, abounding with flints, being, on the western side, chalky, and much covered with coppice wood. It is a lonely unfrequented district, with scarcely any thoroughfare. The village, which is small, stands round a green near the church; and at a small distance is the parsonage.

This parish was once part of the estates of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record.

About four years after the disgrace of that prelate, this manor devolved to the possession of Jeffry de Peverel, to whom it was assigned for his assistance in the defence of Dover castle, and, with other lands, made up the barony of Peverel, as it was called, being held of that castle *in capite* by barony. In the reign of Henry III., it was in the tenure of John de Mares; and after him, of Fulk de Peyforer, in the same reign, whose descendant, William, in the 20th of Edward III., held it of the king *in capite*, as three parts of a knight's fee, at Wichling, held of the honour of Peverel, and by ward to the castle of Dover. He alienated this manor, soon afterwards, to Roger Northwood, who died possessed of the property in the 35th year of that reign, holding it

by the service before mentioned. In his descendants it continued down to John Northwood, esq., who died under Henry V., leaving his two sisters his coheirs, who entitled their husbands, John Barley, esq. of Hertfordshire, and Sir John Norton, of this county, to their respective shares in the same.

The dean and canons of the college or free chapel of St. Stephen's, Westminster, then appear to have become possessed of this manor, which, in the reign of Henry VII., was in the tenure of John Dygges, esq., of Barham, who died possessed of it in that reign, holding it, as was found by the inquisition taken after his death, of the above-mentioned dean and canons, by homage and fealty, and the service of three parts of one knight's fee, together with a yearly payment to the king's castle of Dover, as before mentioned.

The dean and canons continued the proprietors of this manor till the dissolution of their college, which happened in the 1st of Edward VI., in consequence of the Act, for the suppression of all free chapels, colleges, and chantries, by which they and all their lands and revenues were surrendered to the king.

The following year, this manor was surveyed by order of the court of Augmentation, when it was returned as belonging to the late college of St. Stephen's, and was of the yearly value of £6 6 8; and that there was payable, yearly, out of the revenue, 6d. to the sheriff, 25s. for blanch rent, and 1s. ½d. for castle-guard rent to Dover castle.

King Edward VI., in his 3d year, granted this manor, with all its liberties and privileges, to Sir Thomas Cheney, knight of the garter, whose son, lord Cheney, in the reign of Elizabeth, alienated this manor to Edward Filmer, esq., afterwards knighted by that queen. His great grandson, Robert Filmer, esq., of East Sutton, was created a baronet in 1674, from whom this manor descended down to Sir Beversham Filmer, bart., of East Sutton, who possessed the same.

Wichling is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, dedicated to St. Margaret, consists of one small aisle and a chancel, having a low pointed steeple at the west end. There is a memorial for Robard Filmer, of Wichling, brother to Sir Edward Filmer, the purchaser of this manor, who died in 1615; one also for Annys, widow of Raynold Filmer, who died

in 1616. This church seems formerly to have been an appendage to the manor of Wichling, as the family of Northwood possessed the advowson at the periods of time in which they held the manor; and John Northwood died possessed of both under Henry V. This advowson then appears to have passed from that name through the same chain of owners as that of Harrietsham, namely, to William Steede, esq., of that place; and from him to William Stede, LL.D., who, in 1656, sold it to Thomas Conway, whose descendant, Michael, in 1763, alienated it to one Unwin, who afterwards sold it, for £250, to the Springhall's, who afterwards possessed this property.

This rectory was a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear, yearly, value of £24, the annual tenths being 8s. 2d. In 1640 it was estimated at £55, when the communicants were thirty-six.

In Tanner's Monasticon, p. 208, mention is made of a patent, of 18 Edward III., p. 1, m. 10, *pro Capella de Wicheling*, among the possessions of Minster nunnery, in Sheppey.

In 1821 there were fifteen dwellings in the parish of Wichling; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 63, females 74, making a total of 137 souls.

FRINSTED is the next parish northwestward from Wichling, written in Domesday *Fredenestede*, in ancient deeds *Freyhanestede*, and in later documents *Frensted*, otherwise *Wrensted*. Northward of the church, this parish is in the division of East Kent, but the church itself, and the remaining part, is in that of West Kent.

This parish extends on both sides of the valley, called Syndall, or Newnham bottom, through which the high road leads from Ospringe, through Doddington and Newnham, to Hollingborne hill, on either side of which the hills rise very steep, the summits being in general covered with wood. On the east side of this valley, upon the hill near the woods, is Rensted court; and on that to the west, is Yoke's court and Madam's court; and still farther westward, the village and church. The soil is poor, and covered with flints, like that of Wichling; but the rising hills, on either side of the valley, are chiefly chalk.

There is a district in this parish, consisting of about fifty acres of land, called *Minis hill*, over which the manor of Whornes place, near Rochester, claims jurisdiction.

This parish was part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday. Upon the disgrace of that dignitary, it passed to the possession of Jeffry de Peverel, and with other lands made up the barony of Peverel, as it was then called, being assigned to him for the defence of Dover castle, of which it was held *in capite* by barony.

Nicholas de Gerund afterwards held this manor, with the advowson of the church, of which he died possessed under Henry III., holding it of the king *in capite*, as one knight's fee. After the above period, the family of Crombwell's became possessed of the property, one of whom, Richard, was owner of the same in the 8th of Edward II. being younger brother of Sir John de Crombwell, knight banneret. Ralph, his successor, obtained a charter of *free warren* for his lands in this parish, and at his seat here, since called Meriam court, and now styled Madam's court.

In the following reign of Edward III. this estate was again in the possession of the family of the Gerund's, in which, however, it did not remain long, as Richard of that name leaving an only daughter and heir, Maud, she carried the estate and seat in marriage to Sir Henry de Chalfhunt, who in the 20th year of the above reign, paid aid for the manor of Wrensted, or Frensted, holding it by the same service as did his descendant, Henry de Chalfhunt, at his death in the 9th of Richard II. It was then found that John Bedeford, Roger Tournour, Sibill Jarconville, and Agnes, daughter of Walter Atte Style, were his heirs, and next of kin; at which period it was also discovered that this manor was held of that of Ospringe.

Soon after, this estate, with the mansion-house called Wrensted, now generally styled Rinsted court, with Meriam, or Madam's court, and the advowson of the church of Wrensted, were conveyed by sale to Robert le Hadde, who was resident here in the reign of Henry IV. being descended from ancestors who had been resident at Chart Sutton, in this county, for many generations, Robert Hadde having been of that parish in the reign of Henry III. In his descendants this estate continued down to

Henry Hadde, esq. of Frinsted, who died possessed of this manor, with the advowson of the church, and the other estates above mentioned, in the reign of Elizabeth, leaving two sons, Arnold and Matthew, the former of whom succeeded him here. He, two years after, alienated this manor, together with his other estates in this parish, to Edward and George Hills. Arnold Hadde, esq. after the sale of this estate, resided in St. Alphage parish, in Canterbury, as did his descendants, for several generations, until the close of the last century, several of whom lie buried in that church. They bore for arms, *Gules, three bucks' heads caboshed, or horned, argent, between the horns of each a cross patee, fitchee argent.*

Edward and George Hills joined in the sale of the manor of Frinsted, with Rinsted, otherwise Wrensted court, and the lands belonging thereto, to Edward Jackman, esq. of Hornchurch, in Essex, and he, in the 5th of James I. passed it away to Oliver Style, esq. of Watringbury, who died in 1622, upon the death of whose descendant, Sir Thomas Style, bart. in 1702, an agreement was entered into by the heirs, for a partition of his estates among them, which was confirmed by an Act of Queen Anne. In this division, the manor of Frinsted, with Rinsted court, was allotted to Margaret, his only daughter, by his second wife, who in 1716 sold it to Mr. Abraham Tilghman, descended from those of Snodland. He was a commissioner of the Navy and Victualling offices, and dying in 1729, was buried in the south aisle of this church, where there is a monument erected to his memory. His armorial bearings were, *per fess, sable and argent, a lion rampant, counterchanged, crowned, or.* He was succeeded by his son Abraham Tilghman, esq. who resided here till his death in 1779, leaving by Olivia, his wife, one daughter Elizabeth, who married the Rev. Pierrepoint Crompe, of Newnham, in Gloucestershire. He afterwards resided here, and died in 1797, leaving his widow surviving, and one son, Thomas, and a daughter, Henrietta Maria, the former of whom inherited this manor.

Madam's court, formerly called Meriam's court, passed from Arnold Hadde, in the reign of Elizabeth, to Edward and George Hills, who joined in the sale of the same to one Archer, from which name it passed, in the reign of Charles I., to the Thatcher's, by a female heir, from which family it went in marriage to the Bachelor's, some of whose descendants are interred in this church.

Mr. William Batchelor at length alienated this property to James Chapman, gent. of Milton, whose son Edward, of Otterden, died in 1765, leaving by his wife, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Dennis, of Leyborne, one son, James Chapman, esq. of Faversham, who afterwards possessed this estate.

YOKE'S COURT is a manor in this parish, which, in the reign of Henry III., formed part of the possessions of Fulk de Peyforer, whose descendant, William, in the 20th of Edward III. paid aid for it as half a knight's fee, which he then held at Le Yoke, in this parish, of the honour of Leeds.

He soon afterwards alienated this manor to Roger Northwood, who died in the 35th year of that reign, possessed of this manor of Yoke, held of the king *in capite*, by the service of making his suit at the gate of the castle of Leeds, from month to month, in lieu of all service whatsoever. His descendant, John Northwood, esq. died possessed of the same under Henry V., leaving his two sisters his coheirs.

From one of the above name this manor was alienated to John Dyggs, esq. of Barham, whose descendant, James, died in the reign of Henry VIII., then holding this manor *in capite*, by knight's service. He left two sons, John, who was of Barham, and Leonard, whose descendants were of Chilham castle. His son John, the eldest, succeeded him in this manor, and died in his lifetime, leaving a son William, whose heir, Christopher Dyggs, esq. of Barham, having levied fines of all his lands, under Queen Elizabeth, soon after alienated this manor to the Archer's, from which name, in the reign of Charles I., it passed by sale to the Thatcher's, of whom there were many in the adjoining parish of Wormsell, as appears by the register there, as early as the reign of Henry VIII. This manor continued in the name of Thatcher, till by a female heir it went in marriage to Mr. Henry Bing, of Wickhambreaux, on whose death, his son, Mr. John Bing, became possessed of the same. He died in 1766, leaving one son Henry, and two daughters, the former of whom succeeded to this estate. A court-baron is held for this manor.

FRINSTED is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. The church, dedicated to St. Dunstan, is situated to the west of the village, but in the northern part of the parish. It consists of two aisles, and the same number of chancels; that to the north

belongs to the estate of Yoke's court, wherein there are several memorials for the Thatcher and the Bing families. In the south aisle is a monument for Abraham Tilghman, esq., who died in 1729; and in a recess of the north wall of the chancel, is an ancient tomb, surmounted by an engrailed arch. In the churchyard, is an altar tomb; beneath which, is a vault, wherein lie A. Tilghman, esq., obt. 1779, and Olivia his wife, with the Rev. Mr. Crompe, and Henrietta Maria, his daughter.

This church, as before mentioned, was formerly appendant to the manor of Frinsted, and seems to have passed with the same from Arnold Hadde, esq., together with his other estates in this parish, to Edward and George Hills, with the advowson of the rectory of Frinsted, who alienated the same to the Archer's; when passing to the Thatcher's, it remained in that name till Mary conveyed it in marriage to Mr. Henry Bing, whose descendant afterwards possessed this estate.

In Strype's Stowe's Survey, it is said, that in the reign of Edward III., the church of Frethensted, in the diocese of Canterbury, belonged to St. Catherine's hospital, near the Tower; and Tanner, in his Monasticon, states, in a patent of the 3d of Edward III., p. 2, m. 2, is a licence for appropriating that church to the above-mentioned hospital, with which our account does not agree, as the advowson is found to have been vested in the several owners of the manor of Frinsted.

This rectory was valued in the king's books at £9 11 8, the yearly tenths being 19s. 2d., and is of the certified value of £7 17 4. In 1640 the estimate was £60, communicants being fifty.

In 1821, there were twenty-two dwellings in the parish of Frinsted; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 80, females 72, making a total of 152 souls.

Wormsell lies westward from Frinsted, near the summit of the chalk hills, and is now frequently written and called *Wormshill*.

That part of the parish northward of the church, including the borough of Bedmanton, is in the *division of East Kent*, but the residue, including the church and village, is in that of *West Kent*, to which division, therefore, this parish is esteemed to belong.

It is situated mostly on high ground, about three miles northward from the summit of the chalk hills; the main road through Newnham, or Syndall bottom, towards Hollingborne, running along the southern part of this district. It is a parish so obscurely situated, and of so little thoroughfare, as scarcely to be known, and being exposed to a northern aspect, lies very bleak and cold. The church stands rather in the eastern part, having the village, consisting of a few scattered houses, at a small distance; from which, about a mile northwestward, is the hamlet of Bedmanton. The hills here are frequent and steep, the soil being much the same as that in the adjoining parishes. The land is poor, and in general lets at between 5s. and 6s. an acre. At the northern boundary of the parish, is a considerable quantity of wood, consisting chiefly of hazel and oak, which latter never grows to any size. In the reign of Henry III., a family resided here, which derived its surname from this district.

Thomas Pepyr, of this parish, in his will, dated 1460, mentions his chief place, called *Rychemonds*, with other lands here, which he gave to Julian his wife, and afterwards to Richard Pepyr, his son.

This Manor was anciently esteemed as an appendage to that of Boughton Malherb, and was held of the manor of Ospringe, both of which, for a length of time, possessed the same owners.

In the reign of Henry III., Robert de Gatton held the manors of Bocton and Wormsell, whose grandson, Hamo, dying without male issue, Elizabeth, his daughter and coheir, carried both these estates, in marriage, to William de Dene, who, in the 10th of Edward II., obtained a charter of *free warren* for his several manors in this county. Margery, the other daughter of Hamo, married Simon de Norwood, and possessed all her father's lands in Surrey. In one of the windows of this church are the arms of Simon de Norwood, *Ermine, a cross engrailed, gules, charged with a bendlet, azure, empaling chequy, argent, and azure.* William de Dene died in the 15th of Edward III., holding these manors of the king *in capite*, as of his castle of Dover, and paying to the ward of the same. Thomas de Dene, his son and heir, succeeded him in both these estates; and, in the 20th of the same reign, paid aid for them, when the renowned Edward the Black Prince was created a knight, as one knight's fee, in

Bocton and Wormsell, which Hamo de Gatton had before held of the king. He died possessed of the same, when the heirs of his son, Thomas de Dene, alienated these manors to Robert Corbie, whose son and heir, Robert, of Boughton Malherb, leaving an only daughter and heir, Joan, she carried them in marriage to Sir Nicholas Wotton, whose heir alienated this estate, with the advowson of the church of Wormsell, to Thomas St. Nicholas, of Thorne, in Thanet; whose son and heir, Roger St. Nicholas, left an only daughter, Elizabeth, who carried this estate in marriage to John Dingley, or Dyneley. His descendant, Francis Dingley, esq., as the name was then written, of Charlton, in Worcestershire, passed it away to William Sedley, esq. of the Friars, in Aylesford, created a baronet in 1611; in which name and family it continued down to Sir Charles Sedley, of St. Giles's in the Fields, London. He was created a baronet in 1702, and afterwards resided at the ancient family seat at Scadbury, in Southfleet, and alienated this manor, with the advowson, about the year 1712, to the president and governors of Christ's hospital, in London, for the benefit of that charity. It still pays a castle-guard rent to Dover castle.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

Bedmanton is a borough in this parish, including within its boundaries the manor of that name, and has ever been esteemed as an appendage to the manor of Bobbing, with which it has been, for many years, in the possession of the family of the Tyndale's, of North Cerney, in Gloucestershire. The owner of these estates was, subsequently, Colonel William Tyndale, of that place.

Part of this borough is within the manor of Newington, near Sittingbourne, as appears from the survey taken, in 1650, of the king's manors and revenues; the several freeholders of the borough of Bedmanton, in this parish, holding their lands therein of that manor in *free socage tenure.*

Wormsell is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. The church, dedicated to St. Giles, consists of two aisles and two chancels, with a tower steeple at the west end; there being some remains of good painted glass in the great east window. Several of the family of the Tylden's lie buried here, where they resided till the reign of James I., when they removed to Milsted. In

the churchyard are some mementos of the family of the Thatcher's; as well as for that of the Wood's, who resided at Northwood, in this parish, and Bicknor.

The rectory was estimated, in the king's books, at £10, the yearly tenths being £1; and is of the annual value of £69 4.

In 1640 the valuation was £76, communicants seventy-three; it afterwards increased to about 200 guineas per annum.

In 1821 there were twenty-six dwellings in the parish of Wormsell; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 91, females 74, making a total of 165 souls.

Bicknor is the next parish northwestward, anciently written *Bykenore*, the south-west part of which district is in the hundred of Eyhorne, and division of *West Kent;* the residue, in that of Milton, and division of *East Kent;* but the church and village being situated in the former part, this parish is esteemed to be in the *division of West Kent.*

Bicknor is an obscure place, something more than two miles northward of the chalk hills. It lies among the woods, mostly on high ground, and though abounding with hill and dale, yet the former are neither so steep nor frequent, as in Worms hill and the adjoining parishes. It is a healthy situation, but the soil is very poor, consisting chiefly of an unfertile red earth, mixed with flints. The church and adjoining village stand on the southern side of the parish; about a mile northward from which, is the hamlet of Dean Bottom; and near the south-east side of the village, is a large tract of woodland, called Bicknor wood; in addition to which, there are several other small parcels of woodland, interspersed in different parts, equally poor with the rest of the lands. In the northern part of this parish, is an estate called Northwood, lately belonging to the Chambers's, of Tunstall.

This place was anciently part of the possessions of a family of the same name. Sir John de Bicknor held it, as half a knight's fee, in the reign of Edward I., who, as well as Sir Thomas de Bicknor, accompanied that king to the siege of Carlaverock, in Scotland, in the 28th year of his reign, being both registered in the roll of those knights who were there

created bannerets by that prince. Their arms were *Ermine on a chief azure, three lions rampant, argent,* which are still remaining on the roof of the cloisters of Canterbury cathedral.

In the 1st and 4th of Edward II., Alexander de Bykenore, clerk, was treasurer of the Exchequer, in Ireland; and Thomas, in the 5th of that reign, married Joan, eldest daughter and heir of Hugh de Mortimer, of Castle Richard. Previous, however, to that period, at the latter end of the reign of Edward I., Bicknor was become the property of the family of the Leyborne's, one of whom, William, died possessed of the property, in the reign of Edward II. His son Thomas, died during his lifetime, when his granddaughter, Juliana, became his heir, and dying without issue, and no claimants appearing to inherit her vast estates, this property, among the rest, became escheated to the crown; where it remained till the king granted it to the abbey of St. Mary Graces, on Tower hill, of which he was the founder. By the latter it was soon after demised to Sir Simon de Burley, for a term of years; but becoming forfeited on his attainder, Richard II. granted and confirmed this manor to the above abbey, in pure and perpetual alms, for ever.

The manor remained part of the possessions of the above-mentioned monastery till the dissolution, in the 30th of Henry VIII., when it was surrendered to the king. After which, that monarch granted Bicknor to Christopher Sampson, who, in the 2d of Edward VI., passed it away to Sir Thomas Wyatt, who soon after alienated the property to Thomas Reader, of Bredgar, yeoman. He, about the latter end of the reign of Elizabeth, conveyed it to William Terry, who, under James I., partly by sale, and on account of alliance, settled this property on William Aldersey, descended from an ancient family of that name, settled at Aldersey, in Cheshire. His son, Thomas, of Bridgar, gave this manor by will to his second son, Farnham Aldersey, of Maidstone, who died possessed of the same in 1686, when his son, of the same name, alienated it, about 1718, to Charles Finch, esq., of Chatham, whose daughter and heir, Rebecca, carried it in marriage to Mr. Thomas Cromp, of Newnham, in Gloucestershire. He was succeeded herein by his only son, the Rev. Pierrepoint Cromp, of Frinsted, who, in 1764, sold the estate to Abraham Chambers, esq., of Totteridge, in Hertfordshire, who resided there for some time. He died in

1782, and by will gave this manor, with the rest of his estates, to his three sons, Samuel, Abraham Henry, and William, who afterwards jointly possessed them; and upon a division, made in 1795, this manor became the property of William, the youngest. There is no court held for this manor.

Bicknor is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingborne. The church, dedicated to St. James the Apostle, consists of a nave and two side aisles, with a chancel half the length of the church; the nave is double the height of the two aisles; there being also a low pointed steeple at the south-west corner.

This is a very ancient and curious structure, and appears, from the clumsiness of the architecture, the basements of the pillars, the zigzag ornaments of their capitals, and their semi-circular plain arches in every direction, to have been built in the time of the Saxons; indeed, the whole bears characteristic marks of a very remote antiquity.

This rectory was a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear, yearly, certified value of £32. In 1640 it was valued at £50, the communicants being then thirty-two.

The rector's house, or *hovel*, as it may be more properly designated, is a very singular edifice, and remarkably situated, being nothing more than a shed, built against the north side of the church, with a room projecting nearly across the aisle, beneath the same roof, affording a miserable habitation even for the poorest cottager to inhabit.

In 1821 there were eight dwellings in the parish of Bicknor; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 29, females 24, making a total of 53 souls.

Hucking is the next parish southwestward from Bicknor, in the hundred of Eyhorne, and *western division* of the county. It is called, in ancient records, *Houkynge*, and derived the name from its elevated situation. It is a small unfrequented parish, and but little known, lying close to the summit of the chalk hills; near which, stands the church, with two or three houses adjoining, the rest being interspersed over different parts. It is situated on high ground, being much exposed to a bleak

northern aspect, and joins that part of Hollingborne above the hills, to the southward. This district wears a woody appearance, from the wide hedge-rows round the fields; and on the north-west side joins a large tract of woodland, which nearly reaches the church. The whole is dreary and unpleasant, the soil poor and chalky, and covered with flints.

The manor of Hollingborne, which was given to the priory of Christ church, in Canterbury, in 980, claims over this parish; subordinate to which is the *manor of Huckings court*, late the property of the Rev. John Davis, of Mereworth, whose widow, Mrs. Anne Davis, sold it to Baldwin Duppa Duppa, esq., of Hollingborne hill.

Hucking, or *Rumpsted*, is a small manor in this parish, which acquired its latter name from the ancient possessor, Sir Edward Rumpsted, having held it in the reign of Edward I., whose descendant, of the same name, was an eminent man in the reign of Edward III. How long it continued in that line we do not find, but, in the 3d of Henry VI., it devolved to the possession of Richard Peverell, and, in the 25th of the same reign, Robert de Poynings died possessed of this property, leaving Alianore, the wife of Sir Henry Percy, his cousin and heir, who had possession granted her of this estate, among her other lands and inheritance: and during the life of his father, he succeeded also, by this marriage, to the baronies of Poynings, Bryan, and Fitzpain, by the former of which titles he was summoned to Parliament.

On his father's death, in the 33d year of that reign, he succeeded him as earl of Northumberland, and having engaged warmly in defence of Henry VI., was slain fighting on that monarch's side, at the battle of Towton field, being, at the period of his death, possessed of this manor.

The following year, that is to say, the 1st of Edward IV., an Act of attainder passed against the deceased earl, when this property fell to the Peckham's; with whom it did not, however, long remain, as, in the reign of Henry VII., the title became vested in Henry Vane, esq., whose son, Ralph, conveyed it, under Henry VIII., to William Taylor, of Romney, son of John, of Shadoxhurst. From that line it passed to Edward Atte Wood, who died in the reign of Elizabeth, when he was buried in Hollingborne church. Richard Wood left a daughter and heir,

Eleanor, who conveyed this estate in marriage to Thomas Thompson, and he alienated it to another William Taylor, whose son and heir, under Charles I., transferred his interest herein, by sale, to Mr. John Stringer, of Goudhurst, who gave it to his youngest son, Thomas. His two sons dying, his daughter, Catherine, married William Belcher, M.D., of Rochester, who at length entitled him to this estate. He was succeeded by his eldest son, the Rev. Stringer Belcher, rector of Ulcomb, who died in 1739, leaving four daughters coheirs. They possessed this estate in undivided shares, of which, one fourth part, possessed by Benjamin Neale Bayley, esq., in right of his wife, Anne, the eldest daughter, was alienated by their son, to Edward Belcher, esq., of Ulcomb, younger brother of Mr. Stringer Belcher, before mentioned, who died possessed of the same in 1778, when his only surviving son, Mr. William Belcher, of Ulcomb, afterwards became entitled to the fee of the same.

Judith, the second daughter, on her death, devised her part to her sister, Elizabeth Belcher, and she, in consequence, became entitled to that, as well as her own fourth part, being one whole undivided moiety of this estate; the remaining fourth part having been carried, in marriage, by the other sister, Sarah, to the Rev. Joseph Milner, of Aylesford, afterwards D.D., who, in her right, still continued owner of the property at his death, in 1784, and by his will devised it to his widow, who afterwards possessed the same.

HUCKING is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. The church, dedicated to St. Margaret, is *exempt* from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon, and was always esteemed as a chapel to the church of Hollingborne, the vicar of that parish being collated to the vicarage of the church of Hollingborne, with the chapel of Hucking annexed; both united, are of the clear, yearly, value of £70 16 8.

In 1821 there were seventeen dwellings in the parish of Hucking; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 90, females 68, making a total of 158 souls.

STOCKBURY is the next parish northward from *Hucking*,

and is called in Domesday *Stochingeberge*, in later records *Stokesburie*, and at the present time *Stockbury*.

The western part, which is by far the largest portion, lies in the hundred *Eyhorne*, and the division of *West Kent*; and the residue in that of Milton, and division of *East Kent*, over which part that manor claims; but the church and village being in the former part, the parish is also esteemed as standing in that district of the county.

This parish lies on either side of the valley, thence called Stockbury valley, along which the high road leads from Key street to Detling hill, and thence to Maidstone; it then extends upon the hills, on each side, for more than a mile. It lies mostly on high ground, and though exposed to the north, is not so bleak and cold as those parishes on the hills, nor is the soil quite so poor; for, on the north side, near Hartlip and Newington, there is some land much more fertile. The sides of the valley are covered with coppice wood, which extends round the western boundary of this parish, where there is some unenclosed down, being poor land, having a wild and dreary appearance. On the north side of the valley, near the summit of the hill, is the church, with the court lodge; and at a small distance, on the north side of the parish, is the village called Stockbury street, where stands the parsonage; as well as Hill Green house, which was the residence of William Jumper, esq., commanding an extensive prospect northward, over the neighbouring country, and the channel beyond; the former owners of which seat will be hereafter mentioned, in the description of Yelsted manor. Southward hence, are the two hamlets of Guilsted and South streets, situated close to the brow of the hill, adjoining the woods.

On the south side of the valley, the woodland continues up the hills; westward of which, is the hamlet of Southdean Green, adjoining the large tract of woodland, called Binbury wood; the manor of *Southdean* having belonged to Mr. John Hudson, of Bicknor.

On the eastern side of the woodland first mentioned, is the hamlet of Pett, at the south-east boundary of the parish, formerly the property and residence of a family of that name. Reginald Atte Pett resided here, and by his will, in 1456, gave several legacies to the church, towards a new beam, a new bell called Treble, the work of the new aisle, and the making a new

window there. Near this property is a small manor, called *the Yoke of Hamons Atte Deane;* and upon the hills, the small manors are frequently called *Yoke's.*

A fair was formerly held here, for pedlary and toys, on St. Mary Magdalen's day, July 22, but now on the 2d of August, annually.

On the 24th of June, 1746, the most dreadful tempest fell here, that was ever remembered by the oldest inhabitant then living. The chief force of the storm was felt in the northern part of the middle of the county, and in some few parts of East Kent. It directed its devastating influence from the southward, and happily spread only a few miles in width; but wherever it appeared, the force was irresistible, overturning every thing in its way, and causing a general desolation throughout the districts where it passed. From an eminence, the direction of this tempest might easily be traced, by the destruction it had caused, as far as the sea, and the waters of the Swale, whither it reached; however, neither the eastern nor western extremities of the county felt any ill effects from this terrible visitation.

This property, at the period of the survey of Domesday, was part of the extensive possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was therein entered. After the forfeiture of that prelate's lands, the estate fell into the possession of a family named Auberville, being held by that line of Roger de St. John, as one knight's fee. Roger de Auberville, or *De Albrincis,* was a personage possessing vast estates at the time of the general survey before mentioned. William de Auberville, his descendant, in 1192, under Richard I. founded the priory of Langdon, in this county; and his descendant, of the same name, died possessed of the manor of *Stokinburie,* in the reign of Henry III., holding it by knight's service. He left an only daughter and heir, Joan, who carried the property in marriage to Nicholas de Criol, a man of great eminence in his time, having attended Edward I. at the siege of Carlaverock, where he was made a knight banneret for his services; and also allowed, by the justices itinerant, to have *free warren* for all his estates here, except one plough land, called *Stannerland.* He died possessed of this manor in the 31st year of that reign; and, from Philipott, we learn, that many of their deeds bore *teste,* from their castle at Stockbury, which indicates that it was one of

the castellated estates of that family. His grandson, John, also resided here in the reign of Edward III.; at which time he spelt his name Keryell.

This property remained in his descendants down to Sir Thomas Kervell, knight of the garter, eminent for his services to the house of York, during the reign of Henry VI.; but being taken prisoner, at the battle of Bernard's heath, near St. Alban's, where the Yorkists were defeated, he was, by order of Queen Margaret, beheaded, notwithstanding the king had granted him his life; after which, it was found, by inquisition, that he held this manor of the king *in capite* by knight's service, and paying to the ward of Rochester castle, yearly, and to the king's court of Mylton. He died without issue male, leaving two daughters his coheirs; one of whom, Elizabeth, carried this manor in marriage to John Bourchier, whom she survived, and afterwards died possessed of this estate in the 14th of Henry VI. holding it as before mentioned. Soon after the above period, it was alienated to Robert Tate, who died possessed of this property in the 16th year of the above reign; and his descendant, William, in the reign of James I., alienated it to Sir Edward Duke, of Cosington, in Aylesford, whose widow held it, in jointure, at the restoration of Charles II.

His son, George Duke, esq., alienated it to John Conny, surgeon, twice mayor of Rochester; when he, conjointly with his son, Robert, conveyed it, in 1700, to Thomas Lock, gent. of Rochester. His widow, Prudentia, together with her three sons and coheirs, *in gavelkind*, Robert, Thomas, and Henry, in 1723, passed this estate away by sale to Sir Roger Meredith, bart., of Leeds abbey, who, dying in 1738, left it by will to his niece, Susannah, in tail general, with divers remainders; till, by the disposition of the same will, the intermediate remainders having ceased, it devolved to William Jumper, esq., of Hill Green house, in this parish, who resided at Leeds abbey. He afterwards joined with Sir George Oxenden, bart., in the conveyance of this manor, in fee, to John Calcroft, esq., of Ingress, who died in 1772; and by his will, devised it to his son, John Calcraft, who, in 1794, sold it to Flint Stacey, esq., of Maidstone.

YELSTED, or, as it is spelt, *Gillested*, is a manor in this parish, formerly possessed by the noted family of the Savage's, who held it of that of Auberville, as the eighth part of one knight's

fee. John de Savage, grandson of Ralph, accompanied Richard I. at the siege of Ascalon, and obtained a charter of *free warren* for his lands here, in the 23d of Edward I. Roger de Savage, in the reign of Edward II., had a grant of liberties for his demesne lands here; and Arnold, son of Sir Thomas, died possessed of this property in the 49th of Edward III., who left it to his son, Sir Arnold, of Bobbing; and his son, Arnold, dying, his sister Elizabeth became his heir. She was then the wife of William Clifford, esq., who, in her right, became possessed of this manor, among the rest of her inheritance; and in his descendants it continued till the latter end of the reign of Henry VIII., when Lewis Clifford, esq. alienated it to one Knight, whose descendant, Mr. Richard Knight, gent., of Hille house, in this parish, died possessed of it in 1606, and was buried in this church. His descendant, William Knight, left an only daughter and heir, Frances, widow of Mr. Peter Buck, of Rochester; and after her death, her heirs passed it away by sale to Sir William Jumper, commissioner of his majesty's navy, at Plymouth. He had been knighted in 1704, for his services, as well at the taking of Gibraltar, as, in the naval engagements against the French, having been, on both occasions, commander of the Lenox man of war. He died at Plymouth in 1715, and bore for his arms *Argent, two bars gemelles sable, between three mullets, of six points, gules.* His son, William Jumper, esq., was of Hill Green house, as it was afterwards called; and died in 1736, leaving one son, William, also of Hill Green house, who sold it, about 1757, to the Rev. Pierce Dixon, master of the mathematical freeschool, at Rochester, and afterwards vicar of this parish. He died possessed of the estate in 1766, leaving it in the possession of his widow, Mrs. Grace Dixon, who soon after remarrying Mr. Richard Hull, of London, he resided at Hill Green house, and afterwards sold this manor, together with that seat, to William Jumper, esq., the former owner, who afterwards resided here, and possessed them both.

Cowsted is another manor in Stockbury, anciently written *Codested,* and was possessed by a family that derived its surname from this property, and resided here. They bore for arms *Gules, three leopards' heads, argent;* which coat was afterwards assumed by the Hengham's. William de Codested died possessed of this manor in the 27th of Edward I., holding it of the

king *in capite*, by the service of one sparrowhawk, or 2s. yearly, at the king's Exchequer; as did also his son, William de Codested, in the 3d of Edward III.; when it was found, by inquisition, that he held this manor by the above-mentioned service, and also a burgage in Canterbury, of the king and of the ferme of that city, and that Richard de Codested was his brother and next heir, whose son, John, called *Cowsted*, about the beginning of the reign of Richard II., left an only daughter and heir, married to a Hengham, who became possessed of this property in her right, and assumed her arms.

His descendant, Odomarus de Hengham, resided here, and died in 1411, under Henry IV.; after which, it continued in his name till the reign of Henry VI., when it was carried, partly by marriage and sale, by Agnes, daughter and heir to John Petyte, who afterwards resided here, and dying in 1640, was buried, with his wife, in the chapel of the Virgin Mary, or south chancel of this church. One of his descendants sold it to the Osborne's, when Edward of that name died possessed of it in 1622; and his son left an only daughter, Mary, who entitled her husband, William Fagge, to the possession of the same.

His descendant, John Fagge, esq., of Weston, in Sussex, was created a baronet, in December 1660, and died in 1700, leaving three sons, Sir Robert, Charles, and Thomas. Sir Robert dying in 1740, devised this manor to his sister, Elizabeth, who entitled her husband, Sir Charles Goring, to this estate. He left by her a son, Charles, who sold this manor, with his other estates in this parish, to Edward Austen, esq., who subsequently inherited this property.

It appeared, by the ancient ledger-book of the abbey of St. Austin's, near Canterbury, that the abbot and convent were anciently possessed of A PORTION OF TITHES, issuing from the *manor of Cowsted*, in Stockbury, which portion continued as part of the possessions of the monastery till the dissolution, in the 30th of Henry VIII., when the abbey, with all its revenues, were surrendered to the king.

These tithes, or at least a part, consisting of the great tithes of 235 acres of land, were afterwards granted, in fee, to the Petytt's; from which name they were alienated, with the manor of Cowsted, to the Osborne's. They afterwards passed down to Sir Robert Fagge, bart., on whose death, in 1740, one of his

sisters entitled her husband, Harris Nash, by his will, to the possession of the same, whose son alienated the estate to Charles Goring, esq., by whom it was subsequently sold to Edward Austen, esq.

NETTLESTED is an estate in this district, which, by the remains of the ancient mansion, situated in Stockbury street, appears to have been once a seat of some note. The family of the Plot's, ancestors of that eminent naturalist, Dr. R. Plot, possessed it as early as the reign of Edward IV.; and in that name it remained till Robert Plot, gent. of Nettlested, having purchased Sutton Barn, in the parish of Borden, removed thither. His heirs alienated Nettlested to Mr. Richard Allen, of Stockbury, whose descendant, Thomas, afterwards, with Gertrude, his wife, under George I., alienated the property to Mr. John Thurston, of Chatham. His son, Thomas, of that place, conveyed it to the learned antiquary, John Thorpe, M.D., of Rochester, who died possessed of it in 1750, and was buried in the chancel belonging to this estate, on the north side of Stockbury church. He had one son, John Thorpe, esq. of Bexley, who left two daughters and coheirs; Catherine Elizabeth, married to Thomas Meggison, esq., of Whalton, near Morpeth; and Ethelinda Margaretta, married to Cuthbert Potts, esq. of London, who jointly possessed this manor.

There is a *portion of tithes,* which consists of corn and hay, growing on forty acres of the lands belonging to the estate of Nettlested, which formerly appertained to the Almonry of St. Augustine's monastery, and is called AMBREL TANTON, otherwise *Almonry Tanton.* After the dissolution of the abovementioned monastery, this portion was granted, by Henry VIII., to Ciriac Petitt, esq., of Colkins, who, in the reign of Elizabeth, passed it away to Robert Plot; since which, it descended in the same line of ownerships as Nettlested manor, down to the two daughters and coheirs of John Thorpe, esq. who possessed the same.

STOCKBURY is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sittingbourne. The church, a large and lofty structure, is very ancient, and consists of a middle and two narrow side aisles, with a high chancel, and two others across. The pillars and arches are more elegant than is usual in country churches; the former, on the north side, being,

of Bethersden marble, rude, and very ancient. This edifice has a square tower at the west end, and is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen. In the great chancel lie buried several of the family of the Hooper's; as well as those of the Knight's; the Bentley's; and the Jumper's. The south chancel belongs to the Cowsted estate, wherein are interred the remains of the Petitt's, and the Osborne's; and in the north chancel, belonging to the Nettlested estate, are inhumed Dr. Thorpe, and his wife, who were the former owners of this property.

The church of Stockbury was part of the ancient possessions of the priory of Leeds, to which it was given, soon after its foundation, by William Fitzhelt, the patron.

Hubert Walter, archbishop of Canterbury, in the reign of Richard I., confirmed this gift, and appropriated the church to the use of the priory, reserving, from the perpetual vicar, the annual pension of one mark, to be paid by him, to the prior and convent. Edmund, archbishop of Canterbury, confirmed the above donation in 1237, and granted the further sum of ten marks, to be paid half-yearly, by the vicar; which grants were confirmed by the succeeding archbishops.

The church and vicarage of Stockbury remained part of the possessions of the above-mentioned priory, till the dissolution under Henry VIII. when they devolved to the king, who settled both the parsonage and advowson of the vicarage on his new made dean and chapter of Rochester, in whom they have since continued vested.

The presentation to the vicarage of this church was reserved by the dean and chapter in their own hands, but the parsonage continued to be leased out to several successive owners.

In the 8th of Richard II. the church of Stockbury was valued at £26 7 8, and in the king's books the estimation was £9 11s. per annum, the yearly tenths being 19s. 1½d. In 1640 it was valued at £80, the communicants being then 160.

In 1821, there were seventy-three dwellings in the parish of Stockbury; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 306, females 288, making a total of 594 souls.

Bredhurst is the last parish undescribed in this hundred,

and lies at the north-west corner of the same, adjoining the parish of Rainham, being wholly in the *division of West Kent.*

This district derives its name from its situation among the woods, *brade*, in old English, signifying broad, and *hurst*, a wood, that is the *broad extended wood.*

The manor of Hollingborne claims over a part of this parish.

Bredhurst lies about two miles northward from the summit of the chalk hills, and joins that part of Boxley which lies above them. To the northward it joins Rainham, the churches being about two miles and a half apart. This parish is surrounded by an extensive range of wood, and is situated in so unfrequented a part of the county, that it is scarcely known to any one. It stands on high ground, and is very cold and bleak. The hills here are frequent and steep, the land very poor, and the flint stones in great abundance. The village is built round a green, with the church at a small distance to the eastward.

Nearly adjoining the churchyard, northward, is a wood where the inhabitants report there once existed a village called Bredhurst town, several wells yet remaining on the spot alluded to.

About a mile distant from the church is *Kemsley street*, so called from a family once residing there. Isabella Kemsley, widow, of this place, by will in 1595, devised to her son John, the elder, two pieces of woodland in this parish, on condition that he should yearly keep a drinking, on All Saints' day, at night, to the value of a bushel and a half of wheat, two bushels of malt, and sixteen pence in cheese, till 46s. 8d. should be annually laid out and expended.

The Kemsley's were buried in a chapel on the south side of this church, where formerly remained a brass plate, the memento of Thomas Kemsley, esq. of Kemsley street, who died in 1586.

The Manor of Bredhurst was anciently part of the possessions of the eminent family of the Northwood's, of Northwood Castenors, in Middleton, one of whom, John, died possessed of this property in the 2d of Richard II., as appears by the escheat rolls of that period; and in this church was once a brass plate for William Northwood, and four of his sons, who were interred here.

Soon after, this manor, with that of Mere court, in the adjoining parish of Rainham, and the estates called Merethorne, now Meresbarrow, were purchased, among others, by John duke of

Lancaster, and others, feoffees in trust for the performance of certain religious bequests contained in the last will of King Edward III.

That monarch, by letters patent, in his 22d year, had endowed and completed the chapel, originally began by his predecessor, King Stephen, in his palace at Westminster; and by his will enjoined the duke of Lancaster to fulfil his testament, when he, in compliance with the same, purchased the manors of Bredhurst and Mere, and devised them to the canons for forty years, to the intent that the king might grant them in mortmain for ever. After that period, by means of some false representations made to Richard II. by Sir Simon de Burley, that prince granted to him these manors; but Sir Simon having subsequently forfeited them with his life, for high treason, in the 10th year of the above reign, the king, by his letters patent, two years after, at the petition of the dean and canons, again granted to them the rents and profits of these manors, and, in his 21st year, confirmed the same to that body for ever.

These estates so continued till the 1st of Edward VI., when, by an Act passed under Henry VIII. for the surrender of all free chapels and chantries, this, among others, was soon afterwards dissolved, and the lands and possessions given up to the king, who, in the 3d year of his reign, granted these manors of Bredhurst and Mere court, late in the possession of Sir Christopher Hales, to Sir Thomas Cheney, treasurer of his household. He died in the 1st of Elizabeth, and was succeeded by his son Henry, of Todington, in Bedfordshire, who, together with Jane his wife, alienated this estate, then held *in capite*, by the description of the manors of Mere court and Bredhurst, to Richard Thornehill, esq. of London.

Sir Henry Cheney, then Lord Cheney, of Todington, afterwards granted and made over all the liberties and privileges of the said manors, when they descended to his son and heir Samuel Thornhill, esq. who gave them by will to his second son, Sir John, of Bromley, whose son and heir Charles, in the reign of Charles II. alienated them to Sir John Banks, bart. On the demise of the latter, in 1699, without issue male, his daughter and coheir, Elizabeth, then married to the Hon. Heneage Finch, second son of the earl of Nottingham, entitled her husband to these possessions. His descendant, the Right Hon. Heneage

Finch, earl of Aylesford, died possessed of the same in 1719, when his descendant, the earl of Aylesford, subsequently became inheritor of the whole.

Bredhurst is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton, being exempt from that of the archdeacon. The church, dedicated to St. Peter, is a small building, consisting of one aisle and a chancel, with a low pointed steeple, adjoining to which is a small chapel, now shut out from the church. On the pavement are two grave-stones, which have been robbed of their brasses, said to have been placed there in memory of the Kemsley's, of Kemsley street, as before mentioned. The whole is now in a state of complete dilapidation, without a door or window remaining, and the pavement, which is much sunk, and fallen into the vault beneath, is covered with rubbish.

The church of Bredhurst was anciently esteemed as a chapel annexed to that of Hollingborne, the rector of which ranked the patron. It was of the yearly value of £37 17 6, being a discharged living in the king's books. In 1640 it was estimated at £50, when the communicants were seventy in number.

This church is frequently mentioned as a perpetual curacy, but is called a vicarage, in the several sequestrations of the same, and in the books of induction in the prerogative-office of Canterbury, as well as in the wills of the incumbents registered therein, who constantly styled themselves *vicars of Bredhurst.*

In 1821 there were fifteen dwellings in the parish of Bredhurst; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 82, females 52, making a total of 134 souls.

THE HUNDRED OF CALEHILL

Is the next parish southward from that of Wye, written in Domesday *Calchelle*. It contains within its bounds the parishes of Charing, Egerton, Little Chart, Pluckley, part of Westwell, and Smarden, with the churches of those parishes, and a portion of Bethersden, Great Chart, Hedcorne, Hothfield, and Lenham, the churches of which latter are in other hundreds. Two constables have jurisdiction over this district.

Westwell is the next parish westward from Eastwell, previously described, under the hundred of Wye; and derives its name from *Welle*, by which designation only it is mentioned in Domesday, owing to the springs which rise in and near these parts, and the addition of West, from its situation, as also to distinguish it from the adjoining parish of Eastwell.

This parish, although situated in a healthy part of the county, yet, the variety of barren soils, and the low and watery brooks, with which it is surrounded, render it far from pleasant. The largest portion is below the upper range of chalk hills, called the Down hills, which here cross this parish, being partly covered with coppice wood, called Long Beech wood.

At the foot of the hills is a considerable slip of pasture land, named Westwell downs; the whole unenclosed, and full of road tracks, over which the chalky soil continues. At the north-east side of the parish is Eastwell park, part being within its boundaries; and at no great distance stands the village of Westwell, as well as the church and vicarage, together with the court lodge and park house.

From the village, southward, the parish is watered by several streams running hence into the river Stour, below Hothfield and Great Chart; and towards the west, is a heath called Westwell Leacon, round which is a hamlet of houses.

The Manor of Westwell was part of the ancient pos-

sessions of the church of Canterbury, but by whom given, we have not been able to ascertain. In the divisions made, by Archbishop Lanfranc, of the revenues of this church, this manor was allotted to the monks, and by them appointed to the use of their refectory.

Their title, however, to this manor, appears to have been very precarious, as it was continually contested; till at length, in the reign of Henry III., Peter de Bending, who had claimed it, acknowledged their right, for which they gave him a sum of money, with their manor of Little Chart in feefarm. The original deed is preserved in the Surrenden library, with the seal annexed, presenting a coat of *three bars*, and the legend, *Sigil Petri de Bendingies*. Three years after, Stephen, son of John Heringod, released to them, for a certain consideration, all his title to the same, which he had prosecuted by a writ of right, in the king's court.

The large sums paid for these releases, demonstrate not only the value of this manor, but likewise the doubtful title by which the prior and convent held it; for they did not, even after this, retain quiet possession till, on a process, before the justices itinerant, in the 25th year of the above reign, the prior pleaded that he had the manor by the gift of the king's predecessors, who had bestowed it on his church, in pure and perpetual alms. After that proceeding, the fraternity appears to have remained quiet possessors, by the verdict of the jury, till the ensuing reign of Edward I., who granted them a weekly market throughout the year; while, under Edward II., they obtained a charter of *free warren* for their manor of Westwell. In the prior and convent it continued till the 31st of Henry VIII., when it devolved into the hands of that monarch, who exchanged this property, for other premises, with Archbishop Cranmer, to hold by knight's service. The above grant was afterwards confirmed by the king, under the great seal; at which time there appears to have been land here, called the *Vyneyarde*. The above premises remained with the see of Canterbury, till the 3d of Queen Elizabeth, who, by Act of Parliament, took into her hands the manor and park of Westwell, and annexed them to the crown, recompensing Archbishop Parker with other estates, in lieu of the same. In the 10th year of that princess, this manor was granted to John Flecher and William Atkinson, for a term of years; and Charles I.

in his 4th year, granted it, together with the park, in fee, to Edward Ditchfield, John Highlord, Humphrey Clarke, and Francis Moss, who immediately vested their interest in Sir John Tufton, knight and baronet, of Hothfield. His eldest son, Sir Nicholas, having been created lord Tufton and earl of Thanet, died possessed of this manor; and in his descendants, earls of Thanet, it continued down to the Right Hon. Sackville earl of Thanet.

A court-leet and court-baron is held for this manor.

Ripley Court, now generally called *Ripple*, is a manor here, formerly eminent from having given the surname to a family of some rank in these parts; one of whom, Richard de Ripley, died possessed of it, in the 30th of Edward I.; and Philipott observes, that, in an old deed, he was called *Miles Archiepi*, as holding it of the archbishop by knight's service. Previous, however, to the end of the reign of Edward III., the Brockhull's had become possessors of this estate, who were succeeded by the Iden's, a family of great antiquity in Sussex, as well as Rolvenden, in this county. In those names it continued down to Alexander Iden, esq., who resided here, under Henry VI.; and was made sheriff, on the death of William Cromer, esq., who had been put to death by the rebel John Cade and his followers: Cade, being at length deserted, was compelled to fly alone, and concealed himself in the woods belonging to this estate; when, the king having promised, by proclamation, one thousand marks to any one who would bring him, dead or alive, he was, a few days after, discovered by Iden, the sheriff, who attempting to take him, on the resistance of Cade, killed him, and cutting off his head, carried that, with the body, to the king, in London, who gave him thanks, and ordered the reward to be paid. He afterwards married Elizabeth, daughter of lord Say and Seal, and widow of William Cromer, esq., above mentioned; in whose descendants, who bore for their arms *Azure, a fess between three closed helmets, or*, this manor continued, till it was at length alienated to the Darell's, of Calehill. A descendant of that name, George, in the reign of Edward VI., conveyed it to the Baker's; in which line it remained till Giles Baker passed it away to Christopher Tamers, esq., who alienated it to the Right Hon. Sackville earl of Thanet, and he consequently became possessed of this property.

Beamonston, usually called *Beamston*, and in Domesday

Belmonteston, is a manor which lies partly in this parish, and a portion in Challock, in the borough of its own name, within the bounds of the hundred of Wye: the site of the court lodge, which has been many years pulled down, having stood, as it is supposed, in that part of Eastwell park within the bounds of this parish. At the general survey of Domesday, this manor was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the title of whose lands it was entered in that record.

On the disgrace of that ecclesiastic, the estate was held by a family which thence took its surname; one of whom, John, son of Roger de Beameston, held it of the honour of Say, under Henry III.; and in the following reign of Edward I., Stephen de la Hay died possessed of it, by knight's service, of that honour, whose descendant, William, died holding this property in the 8th of Edward III. Subsequent to the above period, it devolved to the possession of Thomas at More, who owned it in the 20th year of the same reign; from which line it was sold to Laurence de Amias, whose descendant alienated it, in the reign of Henry VIII., to Sir Thomas Moile, of Eastwell. He dying, in 1560, without issue male, Catherine, his daughter and coheir, carried it in marriage to Sir Thomas Finch, afterwards of Eastwell; in whose descendants, earls of Winchelsea, this manor continued down to Daniel earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, and he dying, in 1769, without issue male, gave it, with his other estates, to his nephew, George Finch Hatton, esq., of Eastwell.

Shottenden is situated in the eastern part of this parish, in the borough of Shottenden, and within the bounds of the hundred of Wye. It was, in the reign of Henry VI., the property of Cardinal Archbishop Kempe, who, in the 10th year of that reign, settled it, among other premises, on his newly founded college of Wye; with which it remained till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., when coming to the crown, it was, by Queen Elizabeth, in her 1st year, granted, with the royal manor of Wye and other premises, to her kinsman, Henry lord Hunsdon, to hold *in capite* by knight's service. His grandson, Henry earl of Dover, in 1628, alienated it to Sir Thomas Finch, of Eastwell, when it descended, in the same line of ownership, down to George Finch Hatton, esq., of Eastwell park.

Nash Court is a manor, lying at a small distance from Shottenden, and appears, by old deeds, to have once belonged to the

family of At-Nash, afterwards called Nash only; which line became extinct here before the 32d of Edward III., as it appears, by the close roll of that year, that Alanus de Hanekin then held this estate. Previous to the close of the following reign of Richard II., one of this family alienated it to Thomas Brockhull, esq., of Calehill, whose son, Henry, in the beginning of the reign of Henry IV., passed it away to John Darell, esq., afterwards of Calehill, steward to Archbishop Chichele, and younger brother of Sir William Darell, of Littlecote, in Wiltshire. In his descendants it continued down to George Darell, esq., of Calehill, who, in the last year of Edward VI., sold it to the Sharpe's, of Ninhouse, in Great Chart, whose descendants afterwards constantly resided here, many of whom, as appears by their wills in the prerogative-court of Canterbury, lie buried in the north chancel of this church. The estate was afterwards in the possession of Mr. William Sharpe, gent., of Westwell. A court-baron is held for this manor.

At a small distance northward from Nash is a house and lands called *Gig-Nash*, formerly the property of Giles Baldock, who resided there in 1531. It afterwards passed into the name of Bourne, and was sold by the heirs of Nicholas Bourne, of Westwell, to William Sharpe, of Nash, above mentioned.

Dean Court is a manor in the north-east part of this parish, above the hill, next to Challock, in which parish most of the demesne lands belonging thereto are situated, and constituted, at the survey of Domesday, part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered therein.

On the disgrace of that dignitary, this manor was held by the family of the Hoeses, afterwards called Hussey; one of whom, Henry, died possessed of it in the 18th of Edward I., and his son, Henry, did homage for it, in the 30th year of the same reign, to John Peckham, archbishop of Canterbury, of whom he then held it, together with lands in Sturmouth. In his descendants it continued down to Henry Hussey, who, under Henry VIII., sold it to a Sackville, when it was afterwards possessed by William Herbert, earl of Pembroke. He, in the 7th of Edward VI., exchanged it with the king, for other premises; when it remained vested in the crown till the reigns of Philip and Mary, and passing through a succession of different owners,

it came by will, in 1765, to the Rev. George Carter, of Kennington, whose son, the Rev. George Carter, of the same place, ultimately possessed this property.

Diggs Court, generally called *Digges*, is situated about a mile westward from the church, and was so named from the eminent family of the Digge or Digges, that frequently resided here, and sometimes at Barham, where their principal seat stood. In the reign of Edward III., Adomarus de Digge was of Westwell, and, by a daughter of his descendant, this seat was conveyed in marriage to Henry Aucher, esq., of Losenham, who had two sons, Thomas his successor at Losenham, and Robert, who was subsequently of Digges court, of which he died possessed in 1512, and was buried in Westwell church. In his descendants, who constantly resided here, it remained, till one of them sold it to the Godden's, who, in 1700, alienated it to William Bokenham, esq., whose representatives, in 1719, joined in the conveyance of the same to Henry May, esq., recorder of Chichester. He by will devised it to Thomas May, esq., of Godmersham, who assuming the name of Knight, it ultimately passed by will to Mrs. Catherine Knight, of Canterbury.

Leyton, or Lecton, is a small manor situated at a little distance northward from Diggs Court, and was part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, where it remained till Archbishop Cranmer, in the reign of Henry VIII., conveyed it to the king; which sale was ratified by the prior and convent of Christ church; but the king again exchanged it with the primate for other premises, and discharged the latter from all tenths; since which, this manor has continued parcel of the possessions of the see of Canterbury.

The family of the Honywood's was, for a considerable time, lessees of this manor, down to Filmer Honywood, esq., of Marks hall.

Perriton, or, as it is sometimes called, *Perry town*, is another manor in this parish, of which we find no mention till the reign of Edward I., in whose 5th year, Philip de Columbers died possessed of this property, holding it of the king *in capite*. It then became the property of the family of the Aldon's; one of whom, Thomas, died possessed of it in the 43d of Edward III. How long it continued in that name, we have not found, but it most probably afterwards fell to the pos-

session of the Pyries, called and written Perry, from which this manor, as well as Perry court, in Wye, assumed their names. Of the heirs of Geoffry de Pyrie this manor seems to have been purchased by Cardinal Archbishop Kempe, in the beginning of the reign of Henry VII., who settled it on his newly founded college of Wye, where it remained till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., when devolving to the crown, it was immediately granted, with the small adjoining manor of Broke, and other premises, to Thomas Cawarden, to hold *in capite* by knight's service. From him the property passed to the Moyle's; and thence again to Sir John Baker, of Sissinghurst, whose descendant, Sir John, in 1657, alienated the manor of Perriton to Nathaniel Powell, esq., of Ewehurst, in Sussex. His descendants passed it away to the Kingsford's; from which name it was sold to the Chapman's, and ultimately became the property of Mr. William Chapman, of this parish.

Wolton, or *Woditon*, is a property here, originally the inheritance of a family called Wolton, or Woditon. Ivo de Woditon held it in 1236, who left it to his son, John; and his heir, Richard, in the 20th of Edward III., held both this manor, and that of Wootton by Barham. In his successors, of that name, this estate continued till the latter end of the reign of Henry VI., when a portion was sold to Jonn Hampton, and he, about the commencement of the reign of Edward IV., passed it away to Richard Rasel, who resided here, and died possessed of this property; but a portion remaining unsold, William Wolton, at his death, in 1540, ordered the residue to be vested in feoffees, for the discharge of his debts, when Rasel, having purchased it, he became entitled to the entire fee. In his descendants it remained at the restoration of Charles II.; but, where situated, or who have since been the proprietors, we have not been able to ascertain, after the most diligent inquiry.

Long Beech Wood is a large tract of woodland, lying above the hill, on the north side of this parish, and partly in Challock. It contains about 1,100 acres, and was formerly part of the possessions of the priory of Christ church, upon the dissolution of which fraternity, under the reign of Henry VIII., it went to the crown, when the king granted it, among other premises, in exchange to Archbishop Cranmer. However, Archbishop Parker was, in 1570, sued in the Exchequer, for selling some part of this

wood, under pretence that it belonged to the queen, and though the suit was determined in his favor, yet the archbishop was compelled to relinquish his right to the same, when Sir James Crofts, comptroller of her majesty's household, obtained a grant of this property from the queen. It continued in his possession until Archbishop Whitgift obtained so much favor with the above princess, as to recover the possession of this woodland; since which it has remained parcel of the estates belonging to the archbishopric. In 1643, it was rented of the archbishop by John Boys, gent. at the yearly rent of £40; since which, the lease thereof has been for some time in possession of the family of the Dering's, of Surrenden.

Westwell is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Charing, being exempt from that of the archdeacon. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a large handsome building, consisting of three aisles, and two small chancels, as well as a lofty one, there being a tall spire steeple, shingled at the western extremity. The pillars on either side of the centre aisle are slim, and very beautiful, between which aisle and the chancel they are uncommonly elegant. In the middle window of the high chancel were some good remains of painted glass, presenting four ovals, in each of which was a figure seated, crowned with a sceptre, the rest being filled with a bordure, &c. Within the altar rails is a memorial for John Tucker, A.M., rector of Ringwold, who died in 1776, universally esteemed and lamented. Without the rails are two stones that have lost their brasses, one of which had the figure of a priest, mitred, and in his robes; and the other the stem of a cross, and at the top the half figure of a priest. There are six stalls at the west end of the chancels, intended for the use of the members of the priory of Christ church, during their residence here. On the south side is a confessional seat of stone, and a niche for holy water. At the east end of the south aisle are four niches for statues, and in the north chancel, a memorial for Mary Wolgate, virgin, daughter of John Wolgate, of Borden, obiit 1634. In a window, on the north side of the north aisle, is a shield of arms, and in another, appear those of the priory of Canterbury, and a shield, *Argent, a cross gules*. In the south chancel is a stone, coffin-shaped, about two feet long, with *a cross*

flory thereon. Robert at Ligh, by will in 1525, devised, for a pair of "organnys" in this church, ten marks; and Roger Baker, by will in 1553, left forty marks towards the reparation of the steeple of Westwell.

This church was anciently an appendage to the manor of Westwell, and, as such, constituted part of the possessions of the priory of Christ church, to which it was appropriated under Richard II. It remained part of the property of that fraternity till the dissolution, under Henry VIII. when, falling to the king, he granted it in exchange for other premises, to the archbishop of Canterbury, in which see it has since remained.

In 1643, John earl of Thanet, was lessee of this parsonage, when it afterwards passed to the name of Gurney, and since, partly by marriage, the lease became vested in the Rev. John Tucker, late of Canterbury, deceased, whose son, of the same name, subsequently became entitled to this property.

It was valued in the king's books at £13, the yearly tenths being £1 6 0, and was afterwards of the clear yearly certified value of £67 14 0. In 1588, the estimate was £50, the communicants being 398. In 1640 it was valued at £69, communicants the same.

In 1661 Archbishop Juxon augmented this vicarage by £10 per annum, out of the great tithes. Archbishop Tenison also gave £50 towards putting the vicarage house in proper repair, which was then in a dilapidated condition. There is only half an acre of glebe land appertaining to this vicarage.

In 1821, there were 107 dwellings in the parish of Westwell; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 443, females 424, making a total of 867 souls.

CHARING is the adjoining parish to Westwell, written in Domesday *Cheringes*, and in other ancient records, *Cerringes*, and *Cherring*.

It lies partly below, and in part above, the upper range of chalk hills, where there is a considerable quantity of woodland. It is a healthy, though by no means a pleasant situation, from the nature of the soils, all of which are poor. About the town

and village, and to the summit of the hill, it is chalky, and above consists of a red stiff earth, covered with flint stones; and below the town it is chiefly sand.

At the western boundary, near Lenham, is Charing heath, watered by several small streamlets which rise close to the foot of the hills, and direct their course southward into the Stour, which runs toward Ashford, just below the boundary of the same. The village or town of Charing, as it is generally called, stands at the foot of the hill, thence denominated Charing hill, over which the high road leads from Faversham, Smarden, and Biddenden, and thence to Cranbrooke and Tenterden, in the Weald. The high road likewise from Ashford is made, by new cuts, to pass through this town and Lenham. Notwithstanding these roads, however, there is no great traffic; the town is unpaved, having a clean and rustic appearance. There is one good house, which formerly belonged to the Poole's, and afterwards to Dr. Ludwell, from whom it passed to the Carter's, one of whom sold it to George Norwood, esq. who resided there. Not far from the above spot is an ancient mansion which has been modernized, formerly called Peirce house, belonging to Mr. James Wakely, who resided there, and at a small distance from the street, eastward, is the palace, with the church and vicarage.

There are large ruins of this archiepiscopal seat remaining, the ancient great gateway still stands, and much of the sides of the court yard within. The eastern part appears to have contained the dining-rooms, the walls being now converted into a barn, and on the opposite side are many of the offices, at present used for stables. Fronting the great gateway seems to have been the entrance into the palace, part of which is fitted up as a dwelling-house, and at the back, to the northward, are the ruins of the chapel, the walls remaining entire, being built of square stones, mixed with flints. In the side wall are three windows, with pointed arches, and at the east end another much larger, of the same form. Sir Nicholas Gilborne resided here, in the reign of James I., who was descended from those of Ereswike in Yorkshire. Sir Nicholas had two sons and several daughters, one of whom, Anne, married Charles Wheler, D.D., prebendary of Durham, who subsequently purchased the manor and palace. This parish contains in its boundaries the bo-

roughs of Town, Sandpit, East Lenham, part of Field, and Acton.

Various antiquaries have supposed *the Roman station*, mentioned in the 2d Iter of Antoninus, by the name of *Durolevum*, or *Durolenum*, to have been in this neighbourhood; and Dr. Plot states his discovery of a Roman way, which appeared to have passed the Medway at Teston, and crossing Coxsheath, pointed towards Lenham hither. Most of those who have contended for this station, have fixed it at Lenham, but only two of those writers, namely, Mr. Talbot, and Dr. Stukely, after much hesitation where to place this post, at length fixed it at Charing. The latter founded his opinion on the Roman antiquities which he states to have been discovered here, while Horsley accounts for the same by conjecturing this to have been only a *notitia way*, and indeed there is but little, if any foundation, for a proof that the station above mentioned was at Charing. That it was a *notitia way*, there is great reason to suppose, as has been already mentioned in the description of Lenham; to which may be added, that there exists in this parish, about a mile south-south-west from the town, a hamlet called Stone street, a name certainly indicatory of its celebrity in former times.

A family anciently resided here, which derived its name from this parish, one of whom, Adam de Cherringes, was excommunicated by Archbishop Becket, who, to expiate the heinousness of that disgrace, founded a hospital for leprous persons at Romney, in honour of St. Stephen and St. Thomas a Becket.

In the reign of Edward I. that king granted a licence to shut up a road leading from Charing to Ashford.

There exists a vulgar tradition, that Charing cross, in Westminster, was so called from a cross which once stood on the summit of the hill here, which, being removed hence, was carried and set up on the above spot. This tale, however, is void of foundation, as the cross which once stood on the site, now occupied by the figure of King Charles I., was in the centre of the three highways, and erected in 1292, under Edward I., in that village, which long before had been called Cheringes, and Charing, and thence universally denominated Charing cross.

CHARING was part of the most ancient possessions of the church of Canterbury, and taken thence by Offa, king of Mercia, who began his reign in 757, when that monarch gave it to

some of his courtiers. King Cenulph, however, his almost immediate successor, at the request of Archbishop Athelard, restored it again in the year 799, with the consent of his bishops and nobles, free from all secular services and regal tribute. In that state it remained till Archbishop Lanfranc succeeded to the see of Canterbury, in 1070, when on the division of the revenues of his church, between himself and his convent of Christ church, this monor was allotted to the archbishop and his successors, under which title it was entered in Domesday.

On the site of this manor, close to the north-west side of the churchyard, the archbishops had a *palace*, most probably long before the Conquest, as it was then styled *proprium Manerium Archiepiscopi*, from having been kept by the prelates, long previous to that period, in their own hands, and continued a palace at which they occasionally resided, as long as they remained possessors of this manor. Archbishop Stratford, in the 22d of Henry VI. procured a grant of two fairs in this parish, on the eve-day, and the morrow of St. George, and St. Luke; and that eminent prelate, Archbishop Moreton, who came to the see in the reign of Henry VII. in great part re-edified this palace, as he did most of those belonging to his archbishopric, when so ample was the building, that both Kings Henry VII. and VIII. in their royal progresses, with all their attendants, were at different times lodged at this palace. Henry VII. sojourned here on the 24th of March, 1507, and Henry VIII., in his way to hold an interview with the French king, Francis I., between Guisnes and Ardnes, in 1520. The king left his palace at Greenwich, on the 21st of May of the above year, on his route to the coast; the first day he stopped at Otford, then at Leeds castle, thence proceeded to Charing, and on the 25th entered Canterbury, all of which palaces were at that time archiepiscopal residences, evincing the grandeur and magnificence then attached to the see of Canterbury. But the costliness of these palaces proved in the end their ruin; for Archbishop Cranmer, in the reign of Henry VIII., perceiving the envy he had excited in the courtiers, surrendered up most of those mansions to the king. This manor and palace remained vested in the crown, till King Charles I. in his 5th year, granted them in *free socage*, to William White, and others, to hold in trust, for Sir Allen Apslie, who the same year, by deed enrolled in chancery, passed them away to Stephen

Abercke, by whom they were conveyed to Sir Robert Honywood, of Pett. His grandson of the same name, being in the Dutch service, and not returning home on proclamation, forfeited this manor and estate to the crown. After that period, Charles II. in his 26th year, granted them in trust to Walter Vane, and Sir Philip Honywood, brother of Sir Robert, for the benefit of the wife and children of the latter. Walter Honywood, their only surviving son, in 1686, being then of St. Stephen's, devised them by will to trustees, who in 1692, together with Robert Honywood, cousin and heir of Walter before mentioned, conveyed this manor, with the palace and demesnes, to Sir George Wheler, afterwards D.D., and prebendary of Durham. He died possessed of them in 1724, in whose descendants they continued down to Granville Hastings Wheler, an infant, who became entitled to the inheritance of this royal manor of Charing, with the ruins of the archiepiscopal palace, and the lands appertaining thereto.

A court-leet and court-baron is held for this manor, which is of very large extent.

The *customals* of this manor may be seen in Somner's Gavelkind, and the custom of pannage and danger, or lef-silver, from the dennes in the Weald belonging thereto, in Somner's Roman Ports. It appears by a MS. in the library at Lambeth palace, that there was copyhold land in Charing, held of the archbishop, as of his manor here, and a grant was made of some of the same by the archbishop in 1478, *ad voluntatem Domini secundem, consuetudinem manerii.*

RAYWOOD is a large district of land in this parish, extending from the lower end of Charing street to Westwell Leacon, and Calehill heath, and is chiefly within, if not a part of, the demesnes of Charing manor. It has been long since, in a great measure, cleared of the wood, whereby it was once covered, and has been converted into farms. It formerly belonged to the hospital of Thanington, and afterwards became the property of the Rev. Mr. Sayer and Mr. Darell.

THE MANORS OF PETTS AND NEWCOURT are situated in the eastern part of this parish, at the base of the range of chalk hills, both of which, under Henry III. and Edward I., had owners of their own respective names, as appears by the private evidences belonging thereto. However, in the reign of Edward II.,

William Ate Newcourt was in possession of both, and on that family becoming extinct, the Hatch's, written likewise Ate Hatch, became possessed of both Petts and Newcourt. From the latter name, they passed by sale, about the latter end of the reign of Henry VII., to William Warham, and he, under Henry VIII., alienated them again to Robert Atwater, whose youngest daughter and coheir carried them, with other estates at Lenham, to Robert Honywood, esq. of Henewood, in Postling. The latter afterwards resided at Petts, of which, with Newcourt, he died possessed in 1576, leaving issue several children, of whom Robert, the eldest son, succeeded to these manors, and resided at times both here and at Mark's hall, in Essex. By his first wife he had a son Robert, and by his second, several children, to the eldest of whom, Sir Thomas, he gave Mark's hall, and his other estates in Essex. On his decease, in 1627, he was succeeded in his estates here, by Sir Robert, his only son by his first wife, who resided at Petts, which continued in his descendants until Sir Philip, one of his younger sons, in the reign of Charles II., left an only daughter and heir, Frances. She carried this property in marriage to George Sayer, esq. of Bourchiers hall, in Essex, who afterwards resided here, and dying in 1718, was buried in this church. He left an only son George, who was sheriff in 1755, and, dying in 1778, was succeeded by his eldest son the Rev. George Sayer, LL.B., who occasionally resided there.

WICKINS is a manor in the southern part of this parish, adjoining to Westwell, wherein part of the lands lie. It was originally the patrimony of a family of the name of Brent, having been its most ancient seat; and Weever states that they were descended from the ancient stock of Brent, in Somersetshire, of whom Sir Robert de Brent was a baron of Parliament in the reign of Edward I. In 1590 the church was burnt, when the windows and grave-stones in which this family were memorized, were nearly defaced, but, on the outside of the belfry, the *Wywern*, being the arms of Hugh Brent, esq. of Charing, yet remain, who had four sons. Robert, the first of this name mentioned in their pedigree, lived in the reign of Edward II. and was styled of Charing, as were his several descendants afterwards. William Brent, esq. the eldest son, inherited this manor, and resided here; and Robert, the second, was of Wils-

borough, and ancestor of the Brent's of that place. John Brent, esq. grandson of William above mentioned, feasted Henry VIII. in this house as he passed towards his then intended siege of Boulogne; and Weever says that the hall window of this seat was filled with the badges of Edward IV. in every quarry of glass. His son Thomas, succeeding to this manor, resided here till the 42d of Queen Elizabeth, when, becoming heir to Wilsborough, by the demise of his kinsman, Robert, of that place, he removed thither, where he also died in 1612, and was buried there. By his will he gave this manor or tenement, called Wickins, with Dence and Caprons, in Charing and Westwell, with all lands and appurtenances, to his nephew Christopher Dering, of Charing, who then occupied them, being the fifth and youngest son of John Dering, esq. of Surrenden Dering, by Margaret, sister of Thomas Brent above mentioned; which branch of the family bore for their arms, quarterly, first, those of *Dering, or, a saltier sable, with a chief azure,* to distinguish this branch, and secondly, *Dering, likewise argent, a fess, azure in chief, three pellets.* His descendants resided at Wickins, which at length devolved to Heneage Dering Clerk, S.T.P., dean of Ripon, and archdeacon of the East Riding of Yorkshire, who died possessed of the same in 1750, æt. 84. He had married Anne, daughter of John Sharpe, archbishop of York, by whom he left two sons and several daughters. His eldest son John, A.M., rector of Helgeye, in Norfolk, succeeded him in this manor, of which he died possessed in 1774, leaving one son, John Thurloe Dering, of Denver, since deceased, and a daughter Anne, who, on her father's death, became entitled to this manor, of which she continued the owner.

STILLEY is another small manor in this parish, lying between Westwell Leacon and Calehill heath, formerly the inheritance of John de Frene, who lived in the reign of King Henry III., and is mentioned in the Testa de Nevill as having paid aid in the 20th year of that reign, at the marriage of the king's sister, for lands which he then held in Charing. His descendant, Hugh de Frene, had a charter of *free warren* granted for his lands in this parish in the 1st of Edward III., but, previous to the middle of that reign, this manor was become the property of Sir Thomas, son of Sir William de Brockhull, of Saltwood, whose son Thomas, of Calehill, sold it, with Newland, to John

Darell, esq. then of Calehill. He, by charter of *inspeximus*, in 3d of Henry VI., had the above-mentioned charter of *free warren* within this manor renewed; and in his descendants it continued down, in the same line, to Henry Darell, esq. of Calehill, who possessed the same.

Newland is a manor in the southern part of this parish, which once gave name to a family who owned it, and resided here. Sir John de Newland lived here in the reign of Edward I. whose seal was *an escallop upon a chevron*, such being his coat of arms, as appears in writings and registers of past times; but, previous to the latter end of the reign of Edward III. this manor was become the property of a branch of the family of Brockhull, as above mentioned. In that name, however, it did not long continue, as Henry Brockhull sold it in the 12th of Henry IV. with other lands in this and the adjoining parishes, to John Darell, esq. of Calehill, in whose inheritance it descended down to Henry Darell, esq. of that place.

Brockton, or Broughton, is another manor in this parish, situated on the farther part of Charing heath, in the road leading to Egerton, which had once owners of that name. Adam de Broughton, or Brockton, lived in the reign of Edward I. and his descendants enjoyed the property until the latter end of the reign of Richard II. when it was alienated to the Paunsherst's, in which name it continued till Thomas Paunsherst, of Charing, by will in 1503, devised it to his daughter Joan, and, in failure of her issue, to his kinsman, Thomas Paine. He became entitled to this manor, and in his descendants it remained till the reign of James I. when it was sold to the Withick's, and by a female heir carried in marriage to Charles Bargrave, gent. of Eastry, whose son Isaac sold it to Humphrey Pudner, esq. of Canterbury. His daughter, and sole heir, conveyed the same to her husband, Thomas Barnett, esq. of Lee, when their only son and heir, Thomas, of Lee, in Ickham, afterwards possessed it. A court-baron is held for this manor.

Tremhatch is a manor here, situated about half a mile beyond the heath, on the Egerton side, which, in the reign of Edward III. formed part of the possessions of Sir Ralph Sansaver, which we sometimes find written Sawsamere, from whom it passed into the family of the Barham's. One of that line, Richard of Teston, in the 11th of Henry IV. by fine levied, sold

it to John Haut, esq. of Pluckley, who died possessed of Tremhatch in the 8th or 9th of Henry VI. when his two daughters and coheirs, by Joan de Surrenden, his wife, succeeded him therein, and Christiana, then the wife of Reginald Dryland, in right of her mother, with Alicia, wife of William Goldwell, of Great Chart, together possessed this property in undivided shares. At length William Goldwell seems to have become possessed of the whole of this estate, of which he died possessed in 1485, and in his descendants it remained till the 43d of Queen Elizabeth, when it was sold by John Goldwell, and Cicely his wife, to Robert Gaunt, gent. of St. Peter's, Canterbury. Their son Thomas died possessed of the same in 1625, and by will gave the property, first, to his brother, George Gaunt, and in default of his issue, to Thomas Carlel, son of William of that name, gent. of Barham, by Mary his sister, who accordingly succeeded to the same. He soon after, in 1658, alienated it to Edward Taylor, gent. of Hollingborne, who died in 1668, and by will devised his house and lands called Tremhatch, to his nephew, William Reynolds, gent. of Hollingborne, which latter, in 1687, bequeathed it to his executors, to fulfil the purposes of his testament, when they sold it to John Crisp, who alienated the property to George Buckhurst, and his descendant, Mr. John Richard Buckhurst, was subsequently owner of the same.

Burleigh, or Burley, is a manor lying in the western side of this parish, next to Lenham, having anciently had owners of that surname; one of whom, John de Burleigh, founded a chantry in this church of Charing. At length, after that family became extinct, this manor devolved to the possession of the St. John's, who bore for their arms *Argent, a mullet sable, on a chief, gules, three mullets pierced of the first,* and were residents here. At length Avis, daughter of William St. John, esq., of Charing, carried it in marriage to Humphrey Barrey, esq., who frequently dwelt on this estate, and was thence usually styled Barrey of Charing. It did not, however, remain long in that name, as it shortly after passed to the family of the Dalyngrygge's, of eminent note in Hampshire; Sir Edward Dalyngrygge having, by fine levied in the 1st of Richard II., passed it away to Roger, and Alice his wife, who soon afterwards conveyed it by sale, to Thomas Brockhull, of Calehill. His son, Henry, in the 12th of Henry IV., alienated the property, together with Cale-

hill, to John Darell, esq., afterwards of that place; in whose descendants it continued down to Henry Darell, of Calehill, who afterwards possessed the same.

The lands given for the support of the above-mentioned chantry were, at the suppression, in the reign of Edward VI., granted to a Darell, then owner of the manor, and his descendant, Henry Darell, esq., of Calehill, was possessor of them, as well as the manor of Burleigh; the mansion of which lies near the footpath leading from the upper part of Charing street to Lenham or Royton heath.

Acton is an estate lying in the north-west part of this parish, in the borough of its own name, just below the chalk hills, a place rendered eminent from its having been the property of the noble and ancient family of the Beaufitz's, who made it their residence before they removed to Twidale, in Gillingham. Robert Beaufitz, as appears by an ancient roll, held it under Henry III., and from him it descended to his grandson, Robert, who, in the reign of Edward III., made that seat his residence. In him and his descendants it continued till the reign of Henry VII., when John leaving two daughters his coheirs, Joane carried it in marriage to Robert Arnold, of Sussex, whose grandson, William, in the reign of Henry VIII., alienated it to Sir Anthony Sondes, of Throwley. His grandson, Sir Richard, in the reign of James I., conveyed it to the Hutchins's, who, by will, vested the property in Nicholas Nicholson, as his feoffee, in trust, for discharging the purposes of his will, and he sold this estate to the Godden's; by a female heir of which name it afterwards passed, in marriage, to Mr. Peter Twyman, of Rushbrooke, in Westbere, who devised it to his three sons, Arthur, Wheler, and John. Arthur died unmarried, in 1779, and left his third part in trust to fulfil the conditions of his will: Wheler, the second son, was of Rushbrooke, clerk, and dying unmarried, in 1779, devised his third share to Hannah Hall, afterwards married to Mr. Peter Harrison, for her life; with remainder to Lewis lord Sondes: and John, the third son, left a daughter, Phœbe, in whose trustee, and in Mr. Peter Harrison, in right of his wife, the possession of this manor remained in undivided thirds.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

Eversley is the last place remaining to be described in this district, lying above the chalk hills, within the bounds of this

parish, and partly in that of S. disfield, which, though now of but small importance, was anciently of considerable consequence, as having been one of the mansions of Bryan de Eversley, a man of great eminence in the reigns of Henry III. and Edward I., being mentioned in the ledger-book of Faversham abbey, as having been a great benefactor to that institution. How long it continued in the above name, we have not ascertained, but, about the beginning of the reign of Edward III., it had become the property of the Peyforer's; from which line it passed into the family of the Potyn's, and so remained, till Juliana, only daughter and heir of Nicholas Potyn, carried it in marriage to Thomas St. Leger, of Otterden. He died possessed of the property in the 10th of Henry IV., and by will devised it to his only daughter and heir, Joan, who entitled her husband, Henry Aucher, esq., of Newenden, to its possession. In his descendants this estate remained till about the latter end of the reign of Elizabeth, when Sir Anthony Aucher alienated it to Michael Sondes, esq., then of Eastry, but afterwards of Throwley; and in that line it continued down to Sir George Sondes, created, by Charles II., earl of Faversham. His youngest daughter and coheir, Catherine, at length, by her father's entail, entitled her husband, Lewis Watson, afterwards earl of Rockingham, to this estate; and his youngest grandson, Edward earl of Rockingham, dying, devised it, among his other estates, to his kinsman, the Hon. Lewis Monson, who afterwards assumed the name of Watson, having been created lord Sondes, and was subsequently the possessor of this manor.

Charing is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of its own name, and is exempt from that of the archdeacon. The church, dedicated to Sts. Peter and Paul, is a handsome building, consisting of one aisle and a transept, with a high chancel, and a lesser one on the south side. The tower has a small beacon turret at the west corner, originally began to be built of stone at the latter end of the reign of Edward IV., as appears by several legacies for the erection of the same, in the wills at the prerogative-office of Canterbury, from 1479 to 1515, not until which period it seems to have been finished. Upon the stonework, on the outside, are the arms of the Brent's, and a coat, being a *star of many points*. In 1500, this church was consumed by fire to the very stones of

the building, which accident occurred in consequence of a gun being fired at a pigeon, then upon the roof; whereby the windows, and grave-stones of the family of the Brent's, were defaced. John Brent, sen., of Charing, in 1501, was buried in this church, opposite to the door of the new chapel of the blessed Virgin Mary, where no burial had as yet been solemnised; and Amy Brent, of Charing, by will, in 1516, was buried within that chapel which was her own edification. This chapel, now called Wickin's chancel, was much defaced by the fire above mentioned. In the south cross was Burleigh chantry, previously adverted to, which being burnt down in 1590, was repaired by John Darell, of Calehill, then the proprietor. Under King Richard II., the block whereon St. John the Baptist was said to have been decapitated, was conveyed to England and kept in this church. In the high chancel is a memorial for Samuel Belcher, gent., of Charing, obt. 1756, æt. 61, as well as for his two wives. In the small chancel are memorials for the Nethersole's and the Dering's; in the middle aisle are mementos for Peirce, Henman, and one Ludwell; in the north cross remain monuments for Sir Robert Honywood, of Pett, and the family of the Sayer's; and in the south cross, others for Mushey Teale, M.D., and Mary his wife. The pews, in this edifice, are of oak, being very profusely ornamented.

King Henry VIII., in his 38th year, demised this rectory and the chapel of Egerton to Leonard Hetherington, gent., for twenty-one years; and the lease continued in his descendants till one of that line sold his interest therein to John Dering, esq., of Egerton; but by some means, long before his demise, in 1618, it had passed into the possession of Edward lord Wotton. How long it continued in the latter family, we have not found, but it was afterwards demised to the race of the Barrell's, of Rochester, with whom it remained for many years; and in their descendants the demise continued down to the Rev. Edmund Marshall, who died, in 1797, possessed of the lease of this rectory.

This vicarage was valued in the king's books at £13, the yearly tenths being £1 6; but was afterwards of the clear yearly certified value of £72. In 1588, the estimation was £50, communicants 326. In 1640 the value was £80, communicants 370; and in 1700 the estimate was £110.

In 1535 this church was esteemed a sinecure, which accounts for its having been formerly denominated a prebend.

In 1821 there were 192 dwellings in the parish of Charing; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 557, females 546, making a total of 1103 souls.

EGERTON adjoins Charing to the south-west, having derived this name from its situation on the side of the hill.

It stands on the height of the range of the lower, or quarry hills, whence there is a most beautiful prospect over the Weald. The village, with the church, stands on the summit of the hill; the tower being a conspicuous object to the surrounding country, and considered the boundary of the Weald. At the southern foot of these hills, one of the heads of the river Medway rises, exactly in the same manner as that of the Stour, at a small distance to the north of the same, under the down hills, each flowing in contrary directions. The soil on the hill is both dry and healthy, being thinly covered with a loam, extremely fertile for corn, fruit, and hops, of which latter there are several plantations, that uniformly thrive in these parts. The district stretches below the hill, southward, into the Weald, where the country presents a deep miry clay, overspread with thick hedge-rows and towering oaks. In this part are two greens, called Frigg's Forstal, and Newland green, with hamlets surrounding them; and on the latter, was a mansion called *Newland*, which, in the reign of Henry VIII., was the residence of the family of the Peir's. It afterwards belonged to Filmer Honywood, esq., about the same time that the Burwash's were of *Elmhurst*, in this parish and Smarden, which subsequently became the property of the Barling's. In the reign of Edward VI., the family of the Bachelor's possessed a mansion here, named after them, which was subsequently the property of the Rev. Francis Dodsworth. Below the village, on the northern side of the hill, is a spring of water, which petrifies; and about half a mile westward, a house called *Goodale*, formerly the residence of a branch of the family of the Dering's. John, fourth son of John Dering, of Surrenden, by Margaret Brent his wife, resided here in the reign of Elizabeth, who bore for his arms the same coat as those

of Surrenden, *with a chief gules, for difference.* It then descended down to his great grandson, of the same name, whose only daughter, Jane, carried this seat in marriage to George Hussey, esq., of Cuckfield ; in whose descendants, residing here, it continued, till sold to Galfridus Mann, esq., whose only son, Sir Horace, afterwards possessed it. Lower down, and farther northward, is the hamlet of Stonebridge Green ; and beyond, at the boundary of the parish, the branch of the Stour, rising at Streetwell, in Lenham.

A fair is held here, on the 5th of August, for toys and pedlary. It also contains three boroughs: Greenhill, extending into Pluckley; Sidney, having within its bounds the farther side of the street; and Edgeley, which contains that portion of the street nearest the church.

THE MANOR OF CHARING claims *paramount* over this parish; *subordinate* to which, are THE MANORS OF WARDEN, otherwise EGERTON, and BRUSCOMBE ; the former of which was once the property of a family of the name of Warden, which conferred its name to this district, John Warden having possessed this estate in the reign of Richard II. The latter belonged to a family that also gave its name to that property ; one of which, Adam de Broxcombe, sometimes written *Brestcombe,* possessed it about the latter end of the reign of Edward I.; whereas, under Edward II., it had passed from one of his descendants to the Chidcroft's, generally called Chitcroft, a name of some antiquity, both here and at Lamberhurst. Agnes, the wife of Richard Chitcroft, held it at her death, in the 18th year of the latter reign ; and upon the extinction of that line, the Beaumont's, or De Bellamont's, were possessed of this property. John died owner of the manor of Bruscombe, in the 20th of King Richard II., leaving Henry his son and heir, who did not possess it long, as it soon after became vested in the Baron's, a family originally from the West of England. John Baron died possessed of Brunscombe in the 3d of Henry V., and was succeeded, about the latter end of that of Henry VI., by the Wotton's ; Nicholas Wotton, esq., of Boughton Malherbe, having died owner of both the manors of Warden and Bruscombe in the 7th of Henry VII., as did his grandson, Sir Edward, in the 5th of Edward VI., together with THE MANOR OF FYLTHER, or FILL, now called *Field farm,* lying in this parish, about a mile northward from

the church, in a borough of its own name. He also held this manor, with that of Wardens, *in capite* by knight's service, as was then found by inquisition, his lands having been disgavelled by Acts of the 2d and 3d of Edward VI. His grandson, Sir Edward Wotton, was, in the 1st of James I., created, lord Wotton, in whose descendants these three manors continued down, in the same manner as the adjoining estate of Boughton Malherb, before described, with the rest of the Wotton estates in this county, to Philip Dormer Stanhope, earl of Chesterfield, who, in 1750, sold them to Galfridus Mann, esq.; and his only son, Sir Horace, afterwards became possessor of the same.

Barlings is a manor in this parish, the farm of which, called *Barling's hole*, is situated about half a mile from the church, having, from the earliest times, had possessors of the same name, who have constantly resided here. At length, after many generations, Richard Barling, gent., leaving an only daughter and heir, she carried the property in marriage to William Sharpe, of this parish, whose son, Barling Sharpe, sold it to Mr. John Ashbee, of Little Chart. A court-baron is held for this manor.

Egerton is situated within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Charing. The church, which is exempt from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon, is dedicated to St. James, being a very handsome building, that stands on the summit of the hill, and is seen at a great distance, both from the north and south. It is built of sandstone, and has a square tower, with a beacon and turret, at the west end. The fabric contains two aisles and a chancel; in the two former of which are memorials for the Hussey's; and on the turret, is a coat of arms, obliterated by time. It is said that the steeples of this church, Little Chart, and Charing, were all built by Sir John Darell, of Calehill, in the reign of Henry VII. We are of opinion that he might have been a considerable benefactor, but the wills, in the prerogative-office of Canterbury, shew that the continued various benefactions of others were so necessary for the carrying on the works, that the building continued in progress during many years, by very slow degrees, for want of sufficient funds to complete the same. The steeple of Egerton seems to have been finished about the year 1476. John At Welle, of Egerton, by will, in 1531, gave five marks for

buying a new pair of organs for this church. There are two remarkable fine yew-trees in the cemetery of this church.

The church of Egerton was always esteemed as a chapel to that of Charing; the tithes, both great and small, being now, as well as the parsonage of that parish, appropriated to the dean and chapter of St. Paul's, London.

This edifice has, for many years, been a distinct parish-church from that of Charing, and is a perpetual curacy, in the gift of the dean and chapter of St. Paul's, who formerly allowed £20 per annum stipend to the curate. However, about 1675, they augmented it by an additional £10 annually; and in that year the inhabitants of this parish raised a sum of money among themselves, and bought a small farm in Stalisfield, rented at £5 per annum, which was settled in trustees, for the use of the curate and his successors. At the same time, the church-wardens, by consent of the parishioners, settled upon the trustees, for the same use, a small house in Egerton street, formerly given by one Nicholas Barling, for the maintaining of lights within the church.

In 1821 there were 122 dwellings in the parish of Egerton; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 478, females 412, making a total of 890 souls.

Little Chart lies the next parish southeastward of Egerton, being written in ancient records *Cert.* It is situated on the north side of the range of quarry hills, where the soil consists chiefly of quarry stone, thinly covered with a fertile loam. The village stands about a mile northward from the summit of the hill; adjoining to which is the court lodge and the church. The stream that rises at Streetwell, in Lenham, constituting a head of the Stour, having passed Egerton, as before observed, runs through the centre of this parish. On the hill, northward of the stream, stands Calehill, an elegant well-built mansion, beyond which the soil becomes a very deep and barren sand, especially about the Warren and Calehill heath, near which is much open waste land; and upon that spot, Mr. Darell formed large plantations of the Scotch fir. The very extensive demesnes of the manor of Little Chart, with those of Newland, Stilley,

and Burleigh; the lands of Raywood, with Calehill and its warren, all belonging to Mr. Darell, form as complete and compact an estate as any in this neighbourhood.

The Ashford high road to Maidstone originally crossed Calehill heath, till, by improvement, it was made to go, by several new cuts, farther northward, through Charing and Lenham. The high road, likewise, from Faversham, through Charing, crosses this parish, southward, towards the top of the hill, through Pluckley, in the direction of Cranbrooke and Tenterden in the Weald, a road of no great traffic, except for timber and the produce of the woodlands. Near the warren house, by Calehill, were dug up, several years ago, some urns, containing ashes and bones.

This district, in the time of the Saxons, belonged to one of their princes, named Halethe, of whom it was purchased by Archbishop Ceolnoth, in 839, and given to the monks of Christ church, with the consent of King Ethulwulf, who declared it to be free from all secular service and regal tribute, excepting the repelling of invasions, and the reparation of bridges and castles. This land was *de cibo eorum*, being allotted for the use of the refectory, which was confirmed to the fraternity, in 1044, by one Elgeric Bigge; in which state THIS MANOR OF LITTLE CHART remained at the survey of Domesday, in 1080, being therein entered under the general title of lands appertaining to that monastery.

This manor continued in the possession of the prior and convent till the 8th of Henry III., when, on consideration of Peter de Bendings releasing to them all his right and claim to the manor of Westwell, they granted to him this manor of Little Chart, with all its appurtenances, excepting Wadetune and the denne of Biddenden, to hold in feefarm.

In the 10th of Edward II., the prior obtained a charter of *free warren* for this manor, among others. Soon after which, it became the property of the family of the Brockhull's, of Saltwood, and so remained till Thomas, of Calehill, who bore for his arms *a cross engrailed, between twelve cross crosslets, fitchee*, as appears by a deed in the Surrenden library, in the 12th of Henry IV., enfeoffed John Darell in the same, together with the manors of Calehill and Hacchenden. In his descendants the interest in this manor continued down to George Darell, esq., of Calehill,

who, after the dissolution of the priory of Christ church, under Henry VIII., was found to hold this manor, to him and his heirs, in feefarm, at the yearly rent of £18 4 3. When the above monarch founded the new dean and chapter of Canterbury, in his 33d year, he granted the fee of this manor, held as before mentioned, as part of their endowment; after which it continued to be held in feefarm, at the same yearly rental, by the family of the Darell's, of Calehill.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

Calehill is a manor in this parish, which, in former times, was so eminent, as to confer its name upon the whole hundred, having been since rendered still more famous, in consequence of the lengthened period it became the residence of the family of the Darell's. Under Henry III., it was the inheritance of the family of the Frene's; one of whom, Hugh de Frene, had a charter of *free warren* for this manor and Stilley, in Charing, in the 1st of Edward I. He was the grandson of Osbert de Pluckley, jun., of Pluckley, whose eldest son, John, inherited that manor, which, by a female heir, passed to the Surrenden's; and thence, in the same manner, to the Haut's and the Dering's. This younger branch of Pluckley and the Frene's bore for their arms *Or, a fleur de lis, sable,* being the armorial bearings of Pluckley, and, as a difference, *within a bordure of the second.* Previous, however, to the end of the reign of Edward III., this family became extinct here, as, in the 23d of the same reign, Richard de Frene, his descendant, passed it away to Thomas de Brockhull, of Saltwood, whose son, Thomas, of Calehill, in the reign of Henry IV., enfeoffed John Darell, esq., herein, together with his interest in Little Chart, as before mentioned. He afterwards resided at Calehill, which he rebuilt, having been knight of the shire, under that reign, and sheriff, in the 11th of the same. In the 3d of Henry VI., he obtained the charter of *free warren,* which had been granted to Hugh de Frene, the same being renewed for this manor and Stilley, in Charing. The family of the Darell's is descended from one of that name, mentioned in the roll of Battle Abbey; a descendant of whom was of Sesay, in Yorkshire, in the reign of Henry III. His arms were *Azure, a lion rampant, argent, crowned or, membered gules;* from whom sprang all the different branches of the Darell's, in this kingdom. At length his descendant, William Darell, esq., of

Sesay, left three sons; Marmaduke, who inherited Sesay, where his descendants continued; William, the youngest, who was of Littlecote, in Wiltshire, under-treasurer of England, and ancestor of the Darell's, of that place; and John, the second son, who was of Calehill, which he purchased, as before mentioned, and died in 1438, having married, first, Joan, daughter and heir of Valentine Barrett, of Perry court, by whom he had William, who succeeded him at Calehill. He married, secondly, Florence, niece of Archbishop Chichele, who constituted him steward of the archbishopric, by whom he had one son, Thomas, who inherited Scotney, in this county, where his descendants remained till the reign of George I. The descendants of John Darell, by his first wife, were of great eminence among the gentry of this county, and constantly resided here; their monuments and memorials still remaining in the church of Little Chart. It then continued down, by strict entail made at different periods, to Philip Darell, esq., who rebuilt this seat on an eminence, at a small distance from the ancient mansion of Calehill, in which he afterwards resided. He died at Canterbury, and was brought to this church, and buried among his ancestors, having left, by Mary his wife, daughter of Robert Constantine, who died in 1785, four sons and two daughters; Henry, John, Edward, and Philip: Catherine, who married Michael Bray, esq., of London; and Barbara: of the former, Henry, the eldest son, was the inheritor and possessor of this manor and seat. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Gage, bart., by whom he had several children. The ancient arms of this family were, as before mentioned, *Azure, a lion rampant, argent, crowned or, armed and langued gules;* but when the house of Sesay branched off into the two houses of Calehill and Littlecote, in the two sons of Sir Marmaduke Darell, of Sesay, the difference of the coat armour of these two houses were thus ordered: viz. that the house of Calehill should bear *a trefoil slipt on the shoulder of the lion*, and that of Littlecote *a cross crosslet, fitchee*, for difference. However, by the death of Thomas Darell, of Sesay, without issue male, under Henry VIII., the Darell's, of Calehill, becoming the eldest heirs male of this family, gave, of right, the ancient arms, entire, without difference; in which manner they were afterwards borne by the Darell's, of Calehill. Those of Scotney, descended from John, of Calehill, by Florence

Chichele his wife, bore *a crescent within the trefoil, slipt,* for difference.

This parish is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Charing. The church, dedicated to the blessed Virgin and Holy Cross, is a handsome building, composed of sandstone, and contains two aisles and two chancels, having a tower-steeple at the west end, surmounted by a beacon turret; the steeple being supposed to have been erected, in the reign of Henry VIII., by Sir John Darell, of Calehill. In the high or south chancel, is a grave-stone robbed of its brasses, with the exception of the shield of arms, being *a cross, lozeny florette.* Within the altar rails, is a monument for Richard Camden, gent., of London, and his wife, Rhoda; and in the second south window, a coat, *Azure, a lion rampant, argent,* empaling the same, the glass being very ancient. Between the pillars, which separate the north and south aisles, is a partition of wood in the Gothic style, with open spaces like window-frames, which returns across it from the west end of the aisle, enclosing the eastern part; above is a chancel or chapel, dedicated to St. Catherine, being the burial-place of the Darell family; wherein are several monuments and grave-stones, and a vault beneath the whole of the same. In this aisle is also a memento for Mary Halles, widow of John Halles, esq., of Tenterden, deceased, daughter of Robert Horne, bishop of Winchester, obt. 1629. This aisle or chancel has no ceiling, and, for want of repairs, the roof is, in many places, exposed to the open air. The pavement in the centre is fallen into the vault beneath, the monuments being broken and defaced; and the whole in a very ruinous condition.

This church is a rectory, having been parcel of the ancient possessions of the see of Canterbury; and so continues, his grace the archbishop being patron thereof.

It was valued in the king's books at £13 10 10, the yearly tenths being £1 7 1. In 1588, there were eighty-four communicants; and in 1640, it was estimated at £90, the communicants being 126. In 1778, the tithes were annually let for £120, when the house and glebe were, besides, worth £27 6 8.

From an ancient MS. it appears, that twenty-nine acres of land were given to this church, in the reign of Edward II., by Peter de Bending, who, under Henry III., had a grant of the manor

of Little Chart from the convent of Christ church, in feefarm. He built the north part of this church, and was buried in the middle of the aisle; and soon after the purchase of Calehill by John Darell, esq., the latter possessor beautified and glazed that portion of the fabric, as a burial-place for himself and his posterity.

In 1821, there were twenty-nine dwellings in the parish of Little Chart; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: malse 161, females 142, making a total of 303 souls.

Pluckley is the next adjoining parish southward, being written in Domesday *Pluchelei,* and in other records *Plukele.* It is situated on the lower ridge of eminences, called the quarry hills, the parish being about two miles across, extending the same distance below the hills, into the Weald, where a great portion of Pevington is annexed thereto; and to the northward, on the other side, the river Stour forms its boundary; as it also does eastward; in which parts are the hamlets of Ford, Mill, and Proting street. About a mile eastward, is the mansion of Surrenden, finely situated on an eminence, commanding a most extensive and variegated prospect towards the south-east, this dwelling standing in the park, beautifully clothed with timber and rich pastures; a situation so delectable, according to Weever, that few can be compared to it, for the healthfulness of the air, beauty of prospect, and every desirable property; while that which makes it more esteemed by the owner, says Hasted, is, that since the grant of this estate, in the Conqueror's reign, it has never been alienated, but continued, without intermission, in the descendants of the same family, down to its then owner. Below the hill, in the Weald, there are several forstals and hamlets; for instance, Pluckley, Thorn, Dowle street, &c. Near the latter, at Newland green, is a good mansion, the property and residence of Mr. Richard Ashbye; and farther on, at the southern boundary of the parish, flows that branch of the river Medway which rises at Great Chart.

The soil of this parish is much the same as that of Egerton, Boughton, and others adjoining, in all of which the quarry stone prevails, being very fertile for corn and hops. Southward in the

Weald the land is a deep miry clay, covered with woods, broad hedge-rows, and spreading oaks.

A fair is held here on Whit Tuesday, for toys and pedlary, and another on the feast of St. Nicholas for cattle, but more particularly hogs, which are driven hither in vast numbers, the prices they bear being generally a rule for those of all the adjacent country.

The Manor of Pluckley was part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, and entered under the general title of lands belonging to that archbishop.

It appeared that the primate then held this estate in demesne, that is to say, in his own possession; but Archbishop Lanfranc soon afterwards granted it to one John de Plukele, who is styled in the grant *Miles Archiepi*, or one holding this land of the archbishop by knight's service, as it was very customary for the prelates, and men of consequence, in those times, to confer such grants, until restrained by a statute passed in the 18th of Edward I. The decree in question is styled, from the preliminary words, *Quia Emptores Terrarum*, whence it was held, that all manors then in being should have existed from immemorial prescription at least before the framing of this statute, it being essential that there should have been tenants to hold of the lord, so that in future no subject might enfeoff any new tenants to hold of himself.

Osbert, the descendant of John de Pluckele, died possessed of this property in the reign of King John, who bore for his arms, *Or, a fleur de lis, sable.* After which, from three coheirs of the same name and family, this manor became divided into three portions, which were consequently apportioned into three *distinct manors*, the principal of which retained the name of Pluckley, and continued to be so called, till Agnes, daughter and at length coheir of William de Pluckley, entitled her husband, John de Surrenden, to the possession of the same. He bore for his arms, *Argent, a bend gules, between two cotizes nebulee, the outer sides sable.* His son, John de Surrenden, resided here in the 44th of Edward III. about which time he erected a new mansion upon the site of the old manor house, which Weever, who wrote in the year 1631, says, "was a fair one in his time, and by the antiquity of it, seemed to have been the like, or much fairer, at its first building." To distinguish this manor from the other two,

before mentioned, then known from their owners' names, by the denominations of MALMAINS and SHURLAD, it was from the above period called THE MANOR OF SURRENDEN. John de Surrenden was succeeded by his only daughter and heir, Joan, who, in the 20th of Richard II., espoused John Haut, esq., who, in right of his wife, died possessed of this manor, about the 9th of Henry VI. leaving two daughters his coheirs, of whom Catherine, the eldest, was married to John Dering, esq. of Westbrooke, in Lyd. The family of Dering, as appears from the papers and manuscripts in the Surrenden library, as well as other evidences, is descended from Norman de Morinis, whose ancestor, Vitalis Fitz-Osbert, lived in the reign of Henry II., and married Kineburga, daughter of Deringus, descended from Norman Fitz-Deering, sheriff of this county in the reign of King Stephen. He married Matilda, sister and heir of William de Ipre, earl of Kent; and, at the battle of Lincoln, when King Stephen was taken prisoner, was slain near that monarch's person, and being afterwards found with his shield covered with blood, his posterity had a grant to add to their paternal coat of arms *the three torteauxes in chief*, in memory of his bravery. He was a descendant of that Dering mentioned in several parts of the *Textus Roffensis*, and in the book of Domesday as having held lands in Farningham, in the time of the Saxons, long prior to the Norman conquest.

He left issue, Deringus de Morinis, whose son, Deringus Fitz-Dering, was the first who dropped the name of Morinis. His son, Wymund Fitz-Dering, was, as well as his father, a great benefactor to the abbey of Boxley, in which they were both buried. He bore for arms, *Or, a fess sable in chief, three torteauxes*, as his descendants did for some time afterwards, the family of De Morinis having borne on their shield, *or, a saltire sable*. His son, Richard Fitz-Dering, *filius Deringi*, was of Hayton, and died at the latter end of the reign of Henry III., and his descendant, Sir John Dering, of Westbrooke, in Lyd, departed this life the 38th of Edward III., having borne for his arms, *a fess, in chief, three roundells*, which are carved on the roofing of the cloisters at Canterbury. He was father of Sir Richard Dering, of Hayton, who was lieutenant of Dover castle under Richard II., and, from a seal affixed to a deed in the Surrenden library, bore *a fess, in chief, three roundells;* on either side,

a horse, sejant, in a ducal crown, placed on a close helmet, mantled; the legend, SIGILLUM RICARDI DERING, MILITIS. He was interred in Lyd church: his son, John Dering, esq. of Westbrooke, who espoused Christian Haut, as previously observed, appears to have been the first who assumed the arms of De Morinis, being *the saltier* in lieu of those of Dering, which latter his descendants transferred, and uniformly bore in the second quartering of their arms. He was buried in the south chancel of this church, re-erected by his eldest son, where most of his descendants are inhumed, in memory of whom several brasses and sculptured monuments are still remaining. He had two sons, of whom Richard, the eldest, was of Surrenden, and twice married, first to the daughter and heir of Berbyn, and secondly to Eyton, of Eyton, in Shropshire. He died A.D. 1481, and was interred in the chapel of the Virgin, in Pluckley church, which edifice he had rebuilt, as appears from his arms being sculptured at the base of the arches. His eldest son, Richard Dering, esq. of Surrenden, left by his second wife, John of Surrenden; Richard, a monk, and cellarer of Christ church, Canterbury; and William, of Petworth, in Sussex, ancestor of the Dering's of that place and Hampshire. They bore for their arms *the saltier, with a canton, gules, for difference.*

John, the eldest son, who was of Surrenden, as above stated, and in consequence of that family so long possessing the estate, the property acquired the name of Surrenden Dering, he (the above John,) was received into the society of Modenden, in this county. His descendant of the same name resided here, and under Henry VIII. married Margaret, daughter of John Brent, esq., by whom he was ancestor of the Dering's of Surrenden, whose grandson, Sir Edward, in 1623, was made lieutenant of Dover castle, and created a baronet, February 1, 1626, under Charles I., and, in the 16th of that reign, one of the knights in parliament for this county; during which reign his vanity to display his learning got the better of his good and loyal principles; of this, however, he soon repented, and made his public apology. But so much were the republicans offended both at his repentance and apology, that this change soon occasioned his commitment to the tower, when being declared a delinquent, though he effected his escape in safety to the king, yet his estates being sequestered, and himself reduced to great poverty,

he afterwards retired with his wife and children to one of his farm-houses, where he died in 1644, and was interred in the family chancel of this church.

During his residence with the king, his newly-furnished house was four several times plundered by the parliamentarian soldiers, his goods and stock all seized, his farm-houses and fences ruined and destroyed, and all his rents abated; so that few suffered more than himself, on account of his inconsistent conduct.

He published a volume of his speeches in parliament, a manuscript copy of which is in the British Museum, among the Harleian collection. He was also founder of the library at Surrenden, for which he collected a great number of books, charters, and curious MSS., and caused others to be transcribed with great labour and expense, among which were the registers and chartularies of several of the dissolved monasteries in this county, together with a series of deeds and muniments, relative not only to the family of Dering, but others connected at different times with that race. However, most of these valuable MSS. were unwarily (says Hasted) not many years since dispersed into other hands. His eldest son, Sir Edward, succeeded him in the title and estate, and married Mary, daughter of Daniel Harvey, esq., of Combe, in Surrey, of whom the following anecdote was related by a late respectable clergyman in this county, now deceased. Daniel Harvey, the father of this lady, was an eminent citizen of London, and a great loyalist, who, at the death of King Charles I. had this his only daughter, who was heir to all his wealth, and about the period in question he had an apprentice in the house, being his first cousin, who found an opportunity of clandestinely marrying the lady, when a twelvemonth transpired before the union was discovered. This was occasioned by her father wishing to marry her to Sir Edward Dering, upon which he found means to get the former union dissolved, and obtained testimonials for the same, not only from bishop Juxon, but the most eminent civilians of that time. Two of their opinions were, that the young man's father having been great uncle to the lady, and he being dead, his son had become his representative, and consequently her great uncle. The other point adduced was, that so notorious a breach of honesty in the bridegroom ought not to be tolerated in a state, and

that so bad an example should receive every punition that could be inflicted.

Some years back the late Mr. Eliab Harvey, king's council, found this relation, with the above-mentioned opinions, in a black box, among his family papers. In his descendants, baronets of Surrenden, who constantly represented this county in parliament, it continued down to Sir Edward Dering, who was also member of parliament for Kent, in the first four parliaments of King George II. He greatly improved the mansion of Surrenden, making considerable additions thereto, and enclosing the park with a brick wall. He resided here, displaying the most liberal hospitality, and died in London, A.D. 1762, greatly lamented by the county in general, for his many amiable qualities, when his remains were conveyed hither, and buried among those of his ancestors, in the south chancel. He married, first, Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Edward Henshaw, of Eltham, by whom he had two sons, Edward and Daniel; and secondly, Mary, daughter of Charles Fotherby, esq. of Barham, and widow of Henry Monpesson, esq. by whom he had Charles Dering, esq. of Barham, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Farnaby, bart.; Thomas Dering, esq. of London; and Mary, married to Sir Robert Hilyard, bart. His eldest son, by his first wife, namely Sir Edward Dering, bart., succeeded him in title and estates, and represented the town and port of New Romney in several parliaments. He married, first, Selina, daughter and coheir of Sir Robert Furnese, bart., by whom he had a son, Edward Dering, esq. who married Anne, daughter of William Hale, esq. of King's Walden, in Hertfordshire, and a daughter Selina. He married, secondly, Deborah, daughter of John Winchester, esq., of Nethersole, by whom he had several children, and was the owner of this manor, with the mansion of Surrenden Dering, according to Mr. Hasted. The family of Dering bear for their arms, *or, a saltier sable*; being that of De Morinis; and in the second quartering those of Dering, before mentioned. *The crest, a ducal coronet, or, within which a crimson cap, on it a horse passant, sable maned, or.* For supporters, *two horses sable maned or,* which latter were granted by Sir William Segar to Sir Edward Dering, the first baronet of this family.

The Manor of Malmains is situated at the foot of the hill, between Surrenden and Pluckley church, and was formerly

part of the manor of Pluckley, till divided as before mentioned, after which it derived this name from the family of the Malmain's, that had then become owners thereof, and had held lands in this parish as early as the reign of Henry III., at which period Henry Malmaines was sheriff, being then styled both of Pluckley and Waldershare. Richard, his descendant, died in 1440, and lies buried with his father Henry, in the north aisle of this church, leaving John Malmaines his heir. After him, no further mention of them is made, as the property appears to have passed into the possession of the heirs of the Toke's, descended by the female side from Henry Malmaines before named, from one of which name this manor passed by sale to the Dering's of Surrenden, and in that line it continued down to Sir Edward Dering.

The manor of Shurland was *the remaining third part* of the manor of Pluckley, lying south of the way leading through the fields from Surrenden to Pluckley church, which, on the division of this property before mentioned, derived the designation of Shurland from one of the family of that name, to whom it was allotted. How long the latter family continued in the possession thereof, does not appear, but it probably passed from the above line to the Betenham's, of Betenham, in Cranbrooke; in which race it remained for several hundred years. Stephen de Betenham is mentioned, in very ancient court rolls, of the date of Henry III., and was undoubtedly the same person mentioned as one of the *Recognitores Magnæ Assisæ*, or justices of the great Assize, an office of considerable importance in those times, in the pipe rolls of the reign of King John. From him that post descended to another Stephen de Betenham, who left two sons; the eldest of whom inherited Shurland; and John, the youngest, possessed Betenham, in Cranbrooke. From Thomas Betenham, above mentioned, this estate of Shurland continued down almost within memory, when it passed, by sale, from that line to Sir Edward Dering, bart., whose descendant, Sir Edward, afterwards possessed this property.

Evering Acre is a manor lying in this parish and Bethersden, which, in the 7th of Edward III., was held by William, son of Eudo de Shillinghelde, who, in the above year, conveyed it to John, son of Thomas Chiche, of Canterbury. How it passed afterwards, does not appear; but, in the 1st of Henry V., it was

the property of John Dering, esq., of Westbrooke; in which line, seated at Surrenden, it has remained down to Sir Edward Dering, bart.

West Kingsnoth, a manor lying in the borough of its own name, is within the royal manor of Wye, belonging to Mr. Hatton, of Eastwell; but the principal estate therein formerly belonged to the Baker's, of Sissinghurst, with whom it remained, till John, in the 37th of Queen Elizabeth, sold it to Richard Dering, esq., of Surrenden; in whose descendants it continued down to Sir Edward Dering, bart.

Pirifields or Ousden is another manor lying upon the denne of Ousden, or Tuesnoth, at the southern bounds of this parish, which had anciently owners of the name of Pirifield; one of whom, Hamo, appears to have possessed it in the reign of Richard I.; as also his descendant, Stephen, of Pluckley, in the 20th of King Edward IV. It then passed to the family of the Dering's; but when, does not appear, for we only find that it remained vested in the latter family down to Sir Edward Dering, bart., of Surrenden.

Roting is a manor lying on the western confines of this parish, near the stream, in a hamlet of its own name, called Roting Street. At the period of taking the survey of Domesday, it constituted part of the possessions belonging to the monastery of St. Augustine, in Canterbury, and is entered under the general title of the possessions of that fraternity.

This manor was afterwards held of the abbot, in *free socage*, by a family which thence derived its name. Celestia, daughter of John Rotyngg, and William, are both mentioned in a deed of the 39th of Edward III., concerning lands at this place; after which we find it in the possession of the family of the St. Leger's. In the latter name it remained till Sir Warham, of Leeds, in the 12th of Queen Elizabeth, sold this manor, lying in Pluckley, Little Chart, and Hothfield, to Richard Dering, esq., of Pluckley; in whose descendants it continued down to Sir Edward Dering, bart.

Pevington is situated about three-quarters of a mile north-westward from Pluckley church, on the summit of the hill, nearly midway between that and the church of Egerton. It was formerly a *distinct parish of itself;* but the church having been for many years in ruins, this parish was, about 1583, united to

that of Pluckley, part of which it has continued, though there is a tradition that Pevington was allotted to this parish, and that the remainder, consisting of two narrow slips of land, adjoining Little Chart, was given to that parish and Egerton; but we can find no authority to substantiate the assertion.

THE MANOR OF PEVINGTON was parcel of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record.

After that ecclesiastic's disgrace, this manor was granted to Gilbert Maminot, and constituted a part of his barony, being held of the king by barony, for the defence of Dover castle. From the latter family the fee of this manor descended to Alice, sister and coheir of Wakelyn Maminot, who carried it in marriage to Geffry de Saye; of one of whose descendants, as chief lord of the fee, it was held, under Henry III., by a knightly family, which took its surname from this district; one of whom, Sir Ralph de Pevington held it in the beginning of that reign. At length, his descendants, John and William Pevington, dying in the reign of Henry V., without male issue, Amabilia, their sister, became the heir, being then widow of John Gobion, of Essex, who died possessed of this manor, with the advowson of the church of Pevington, in 1405, being the 7th of Henry IV., when he was buried in the church of the White Friars, at Canterbury, to which house she had been a very liberal benefactor. She entailed this manor, &c. on her grandson, John, son of John Spelsell, by her eldest daughter, Joane; with remainder to her remaining grandchildren. He appears to have died, holding the fee of this estate, at the commencement of the reign of Henry VI., having enfeoffed his kinsman, Hugh Brent, gent. of Charing, with others, in possession of the same. Afterwards, in the 12th of Edward IV., the rest of the co-feoffees released to him all their right in this manor, with the advowson; both of which remained in his descendants down to Thomas Brent, esq., of Wickens, in Charing, and subsequently of Wilsborough, who died in 1612. It then passed, by will, to his nephew and residuary legatee, Richard Dering, esq., of Surrenden, son of John Dering, esq., of Surrenden, by Margaret Brent, his sister and heir. Their grandson, Sir Edward, knight and baronet, died possessed of this manor in 1644, and, by will, gave it to his eldest son, by his third wife, namely, Henry Dering, esq., who

was afterwards of Pevington; and was succeeded to the same by his eldest son, Edward, who died in 1742, and was buried in Pluckley church, having, by will, given this manor to Sir Edward Dering, bart.; and his son, of the same name, afterwards became the owner.

The church of Pevington, dedicated to St. Mary, was always accounted an appendage to the manor, and in the patronage of the lords of the same. It was a rectory, and valued in the king's books at £5 13 4, the yearly tenths being 11s. 4d.; which amount was afterwards payable to the crown receiver.

The church being in ruins, was, by Archbishop Whitgift, united to Pluckley in 1583; and in a suit afterwards instituted, concerning the tithes of the same, Copley, rector of Pluckley, *versus* Spice, it was agreed to withdraw a juryman, and refer the decision to Archbishop Abbot, who made his decree concerning them in 1618. The church is now converted into a stable; the tradition being, that on the division of Pevington among the three parishes, as before mentioned, the tithes were allotted to each of them accordingly; but what authority exists for such statement, we have never been able to ascertain.

Pluckley is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Charing. The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is a handsome building of sandstone, consisting of two aisles and the same number of chancels; the steeple being a spire, wherein are five bells. It is shingled, as well as a good part of the roofing of the church, all of which appears to have been formerly the same. The south chancel, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, belongs to the Dering family, having been rebuilt by Richard Dering, esq., of Surrenden, who died in 1481, wherein he is buried, as also several of his descendants, together with those of the Malmaine's. The monuments, with many of the grave-stones, of the former, still exist on the pavement, with their brasses richly inlaid, in the south aisle. In the high chancel, is a memorial for Nathaniel Collington, who was rector here for sixty-three years, and died December 12, 1735; and within the rails, is another memento, for Mabella Bettenham, widow, obt. 1710.

This church is a rectory, the patronage of which was part of the ancient possessions of the see of Canterbury, in which it remains vested, his grace the archbishop being patron of the same.

It was valued in the king's books at £20 1 5½, the yearly tenths being £2 0 1½. In 1588, the communicants were 104; and in 1640, 237; when the estimation was £180 per annum.

The rector takes his tithes by composition, which amount to about £300 per annum; there are no tithes in this parish, except those paid to the rector, nor have they existed time out of mind. Archbishop Lanfranc, under the Conqueror, settled the tithes of the demesne lands of the lordship of Pluckley, which he had previously given to William de Pluckley, on the priory of St. Gregory, in Canterbury, that institution having been founded by the above prelate, in 1084; a gift that was confirmed by Archbishop Hubert.

In 1821 there were eighty-six dwellings in the parish of Pluckley; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 371, females 292, making a total of 663 souls.

Smarden is the last parish to be described in this hundred. It lies the next southwestward from that of Pluckley, below the quarry hill, within the bounds of the Weald. That portion within the borough of Povenden, is in the hundred of Blackborne; and the part lying in the boroughs of Omenden and Stepherst, is in the hundred of Barkley; both being in the western division of the county. The residue of this parish, containing the town and church of Smarden, within the same, is in the hundred of Calehill, and eastern division of the county.

The manor of Shurland claims over the denne of Holmherst, in this parish; and the manors of Otterden and Throwley extend to a portion of this parish; and the latter, over the denne of Toppenden, or Tappenden, whence the family of Tappenden, since of Sittingbourne, claims its origin and name; a direct descendant of which was Mr. James Tappenden, gent., of Faversham, in this county.

The parish of Smarden is about four miles across, and lies at a small distance from the quarry hills, within the Weald, in a flat low situation, very unpleasant and watery, the soil being a deep miry clay. The eastern parts are chiefly covered by large coppice woods, and the whole, from its flatness, the wide hedgerows, and quantity of oak-trees spread over the same, presents

a very gloomy appearance. The town or village, with the church, is situated at the southern bounds of this hundred, on the turnpike road, leading from Faversham, through Charing, hither, and so on to Biddenden, Cranbrooke, and Tenterden; a road which, from the depth of the soil, and want of improvement, since the trust has been created, is, in winter, or indeed after any wet weather, scarcely passable throughout this parish, even for waggons. That branch of the river Medway rising near Goldwell, in Great Chart, flows through this parish, close below the town, under a stone bridge of two arches, westward, towards Hedcorne; and thence to Stylebridge, where it joins the main river, at a small distance below Yalding bridge. There is a market-house in this town, but the market has been disused for many years; it also contains a well-built meeting-house, with a burial-ground, wherein are several handsome tomb-stones, and the minister's house adjoining. It is for Calvinistical Baptists; but the minister and his followers having disagreed, the congregation decreased very fast. One Tilden left several pieces of land, of the annual value of £30, together with his house, to the minister, for a writing-school, appendant to this meeting. There was another meeting-house north-west of the town, near Speers Ash, for Methodistical Baptists. About a third part of the housekeepers in this parish were Dissenters, in the time of Mr. Hasted, according to the statement of that writer.

The manor of the denne of Smarden is said to have belonged to the archbishops of Canterbury; but at what period they first became possessed of the same, we have not learned, though it must have been since the taking of the survey of Domesday, no mention being made of the same among the manors then belonging to the archbishop. However, in the reign of Edward III., Archbishop Simon Meopham had a grant of a market here, weekly; as well as a fair, held at the feast of St. Michael. This manor then seems to have continued in the possession of the succeeding archbishops down to Cardinal Kempe, who, in the reign of Henry VI., settled it on his new founded College of Wye, where it remained till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., upon which, this manor passed to the crown. It was immediately after granted, by Henry VIII., to Walter Bucler, to hold *in capite* by knight's service; and we next find it vested in the family of the Newenden's; where it continued,

till James and Richard Newenden, gents., of Smarden, conveyed it by deed, in 1689, to George Sayer, afterwards of Petts, whose descendant, the Rev. George Sayer, subsequently became the possessor. A court-baron is held for this manor.

Romeden Place is an ancient seat in the eastern part of this parish, formerly the patrimony of the ancient family of Engeherst, afterwards called and written Henherst, which did not long possess this estate, as William, son of Osbert de Henherst, demised it by sale to John de Calch; in whose descendants it remained till the latter end of the reign of Richard II. Who succeeded that line, we have not found, but, in the reign of Henry VI., the family of Guldeford appears to have been possessed of this property; one of whom, in the 23d year of the same reign, founded a chapel in this church of Smarden. Under Henry VIII., it was possessed by the Rogers's; when John, son of Stephen, alienated it to Stephen Drayner, or Dragoner; in which name it continued, till William, in the 17th of Queen Elizabeth, passed it away to Sir Roger Manwood, who, the following year, conveyed it to Martin James, esq., remembrancer of the court of Exchequer. His great grandson, Walter, possessed it at the restoration of Charles II.; whose son, of the same name, left an only daughter, Auria, and she, at the age of fourteen, carried it in marriage to John Otway, gent., of Mitcham, in Surrey, having had, by that union, twenty children, of whom seven sons only survived, who, upon his death, became entitled to this estate in undivided shares. At length, the eldest, Colonel James Otway, having, at different times, purchased of his brothers their shares, became possessed of the whole of Romeden, and dying in 1721, was succeeded by his eldest son, Charles, a general officer in the army. He died in 1767, and was buried here, leaving, by Bridget, daughter of Basil earl of Denbigh, one son and two daughters. Charles Otway, esq., the son, resided at Romedon, but sold the property, in 1786, to Thomas Witherden, of Wesenden, in Bethersden.

This parish is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Charing. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, consists of one aisle, or body, and a chancel; the former presenting a most curious structure, being forty feet wide, surmounted by a span roofing, singularly constructed; and at the west end, is a tower steeple, with a

beacon turret. In this chancel is a monument for Capt. Jacob Turner, of Hamden, in this parish ; and in the north-east corner of the aisle, a burial-place for the Otway's, of Romeden. In the chancel is a memorial for Anne, daughter of John Marshall, of Halden ; and another for Henry Parsley, who was rector of this church.

This church is a rectory, the patronage having been granted by Queen Mary, in her last year, among others, to Cardinal Archbishop Pole, and has continued part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury.

The church was valued in the king's books at £24 2 6 per annum, the yearly tenths being £2 8 3. There are about three acres of glebe land belonging to this living.

In 1588 the estimation was £80, communicants 350. In 1640 it was valued at £109, when the communicants were 700 ; and in 1741 the amount was £230 per annum. In 1782 the estimate was £170 ; but a new composition being made for tithes, both great and small, the value of this rectory was very much augmented.

In 1821, there were 184 dwellings in the parish of Smarden ; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow : males 555, females 483, making a total of 1038 souls.

THE HUNDRED OF MARDEN.

We now proceed to the *lower* or *southern division* of the Lath of Scray, which is wholly *in the Weald,* and entirely separated from the northern portion, by a large district of the Lath of Shipway intervening, caused by the hundreds of Calehill, Chart, Longbridge, Felborough, and Wye, previously described, and which anciently belonged to this Lath, but being severed and added to that of Shipway, they are now entirely in this latter Lath.

The upper or northern division of the Lath of Scray, above alluded to, will be described in due course.

The hundred of Marden lies at the north-west corner of the lower division of the Lath of Scray, adjoining to that of Maidstone north, and to Brenchley and Horsemonden west. This hundred is not mentioned particularly in the general survey of Domesday, but appears to be included in the king's manor of Milton, to which it was accounted an appendage.

It contains within its bounds the parishes of Marden, Goudhurst, and Staplehurst; and the churches of the two former of those parishes.

Marden is the next parish northeastward, adjoining Horsemonden, called in ancient records *Merdenne,* and lies wholly within the district of the Weald.

A portion of this parish is within the manor of Hunton, and borough of the same name, being both in the hundred of Twyford; a small portion which belongs to the estate, called Tilden, is in the hundred of Maidstone; and another part within that of Eyhorne.

The manors of East Farleigh and East Peckham claim over the denne of Chillenden, in this parish; as does the district of Gillingham, over that of Haydhurst, or Haytherst, within the same.

The parish of Marden is about five miles long, by one

broad. The river Teis, which is one of the principal heads of the Medway, flows along the western boundary of these parts; and another head, that rises at Great Chart, passing the northern boundary and Stylebridge, joins the former; when, pursuing their course together, they fall into the main river at Yalding. The turnpike road, which leads over Coxsheath to Stylebridge, separates at the forty-fourth milestone, from London, the left branch passing to Cranbrook, and the right through this parish, towards Goudhurst, being the only parts which may be said to appear above-ground, the remainder being so deep and miry, as to become nearly impassable in wet weather. The town of Marden is situated nearly in the centre of the parish, and consists of three streets; the church stands at the west end of the town, with the parsonage opposite, at the entrance from Maidstone. The surrounding country is much the same as the lower parts of the adjoining parishes of Hunton and Yalding. Near the road, from Stylebridge to Goudhurst, it is very pleasant; but towards Hunton and Staplehurst, quite the reverse, presenting a dreary and forlorn aspect. It lies low and flat, the soil in general being a stiff clay, and the land heavy for tillage; in winter it is so wet and subject to inundations, that was it not for the manure of the native marle, with the chalk and lime transported from the northern hills, it would be still more barren. Notwithstanding this, there are, partially dispersed, some very rich lands; while, many years back, there were 300 acres of hop ground, which have since been curtailed to about 100. The farms are in general small, the houses being ancient well-timbered buildings, standing dispersed at considerable distances, many of which are on the different greens or forstals throughout the parish.

A fair is held here, on the 10th of October, the profits arising from which, the portreeve of the hundred of Milton receives by ancient custom.

THE MANOR AND HUNDRED OF MARDEN have been, from the earliest time, esteemed as appendages to the king's manor and hundred of Milton. King Edward I. settled it, in jointure, on his queen, Eleanor, who, in the 11th of that reign, procured a market and fair, to be held at Mereden, parcel of the manor of Middleton. Queen Eleanor died in 1291, in the 20th of King Edward I., when that prince again took possession of this manor, then valued at £22 13 8 per annum.

The inhabitants of this hundred repeatedly petitioned the crown to separate this manor from the jurisdiction of that of Milton, but the petition never having been attended to, it still continues in the same dependent state.

Although several grants were at different times made by the crown, of the manor of Middleton, with the district of Marden, appendant thereto, yet the fee remained parcel of the royal revenue, as may be seen under the description of that manor, until the 10th of Charles I., who granted it to Sir Edward Browne and Christopher Favell, in fee; from whom it passed, through several intermediate owners, down to the Right Hon. Philip Viscount Wenman and Mrs. Anne Herbert, late possessors of the manor of Middleton, with this appendant thereto.

The manor of Cheveney and Cheveney House are both situated in this parish, and distinguished by the names of *Great* and *Little Cheveney*, having been anciently the property of a family of that surname. Henry de Chyvene held the manor of Chyvene at his death, in the 2d of Edward II., A.D. 1308, of the king *in capite;* and his descendant, John, died possessed of the same in the reign of Edward III., as did his widow, Joan. From that period there is no further trace of this family; but, in the 2d year of the following reign of Richard II., it appears, by the ancient court rolls of this manor, that William at Weld was then proprietor; in whose descendants the property continued till the beginning of the reign of Henry VII., when it passed by sale to the Couper's, who, in the 13th year of the same reign, discharged several persons from the amerciaments and fines imposed on them for neglecting suit and service to his manor of Cheveney. In the above name the estate continued till the beginning of the reign of Queen Mary, when it passed into the possession of two brothers, as coheirs in gavelkind, who made a *division* of this inheritance: one passing this manor away to a person named Love, whose descendant alienated it, under Charles II., to Thomas Twisden, esq., sergeant at law, subsequently created a baronet, who seated himself at Bradbourne. In his descendants this manor, since known by the name of *Great Cheveney*, was continued down to his great grandson, Sir Roger Twisden, bart., of Bradbourne, who died possessed of it, without issue male, in 1779, when it

passed to his widow, Lady Rebecca Twisden, who afterwards possessed the same.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

Chevene House however, since called Little Cheveney, was allotted to the other brother, and alienated by him to the Maplesden's, which branch of that family had been seated in this parish for some generations before. Many of that race lie buried in this church, several of the inscriptions on their grave-stones being obliterated, from length of time and the damp. They bore for their arms *Argent, a cross fermee, fitchee, sable.* In the above name it continued down to George Maplesden, esq. who resided here, where he died in 1688, leaving two sons; George, who died in 1735, and was succeeded in this estate by his brother Edward, and two daughters, Anne, married to one Booth, and Catherine, to a Courthope, of Horsemonden. Edward Maplesden, esq., above mentioned, was of the Middle Temple, and died, unmarried and intestate, in 1755; upon which, this, among the rest of his estates, descended to Alexander Courthope, esq., of Horsemonden, the son of his sister Catherine, and to Charles Booth, esq., grandson of his sister, Anne, before mentioned, as his coheirs in gavelkind. Upon a *partition* of his whole estate, this house became the sole property of the former, who likewise died unmarried in 1779; upon which, Chevene house, with the rest of his estates, passed to his nephew and heir at law, John Cole, esq., son of his sister, Barbara, who afterwards resided at Sprivers, in Horsemonden, and was the proprietor of this manor.

Widehurst is a manor in this parish, which was formerly written in old records *Wogherst*, and, in the reigns of John and Henry III., was the patrimony of the family of the Corbie's, which was of some note in this county, and so remained till passed by a female heir into that of the Wotton's, ennobled by the titles of lords Wotton of Marley. Thence again, by a daughter and coheir, named Catherine, it went in marriage to Henry lord Stanhope, son and heir of Philip, earl of Chesterfield, who died during the life of his father, when she married, secondly, John Poliander Kirkhoven, lord of Hemfleet, in Holland, whom she entitled to this estate. They, in 1652, joined in the sale thereof to John Boughton, esq., who, in 1656, alienated the property to Mr. John Godden; whose heirs, in

1683, conveyed it to John Brewer, esq., of West Farleigh. His descendant, of the same name, died possessed of it in 1721, leaving an only daughter and heir, Jane, who was twice married, first, to John Curney, esq.; and secondly, to John Shrimpton, esq.; both of whom she survived, and died in 1726, having demised this manor, with the rest of her estates, to her kinsman, John Davis, D.D., who died in 1766, when his only son, John Davis, esq., alienated it to John Cole, esq., of Horsemonden, who subsequently possessed this property.

SHIPHURST is a manor in the western part of this parish, which was possessed by owners of that name, till the latter end of the reign of Edward III., when it became the property of William at Weld, owner also of Cheveney, before mentioned. In his descendants they continued till the beginning of the reign of Henry VI., when both passed by sale to one Couper; from which name this manor was soon afterwards alienated to a Field, whose descendant, Edward, held it in the 4th of Queen Elizabeth. He gave it to his kinsman, Thomas Gilbert, whose successor, of the same name, settled it on his widow, Sibil Gilbert, whose second husband, Richard Knight, possessed it in her right, in 1656. After some intermediate owners, it then passed to the Mitchell's; Charles so called, of London, having possessed it in 1734. Upon his death, it went to his brother-in-law, Mr. George Whyvall, of London; whence it passed to Mr. Pierce, of London, who, about 1760, alienated it to Mr. Thomas Twort, of Horsemonden. His two sons, Thomas and David, afterwards possessed it, when the latter devised his moiety to his nephew, John Coleman; whose son, John, together with the last-mentioned Mr. Thomas Twort, possessed this manor in undivided moieties. A court-baron is held for this district.

MONKTON is a manor in that part of this parish nearest to Staplehurst, wherein a portion of the lands lie. It formerly belonged to the priory of Leeds, and after the suppression, in the reign of Henry VIII., was granted to Thomas Colepeper, esq., of Bedgebury, who soon after sold it to Thomas Wilsford. He, in the reign of Elizabeth, alienated the property to Edward Herbert; from which name it passed by sale, at the latter end of the above reign, to Thomas Stanley; in whose family it continued till the reign of James I. It then passed by sale to the Board's, of Sussex; in whose descendants it continued till about

1756, when it was, soon after the death of Mr. William Board, alienated by his heirs to John Henniker, esq., of West Ham, in Essex, subsequently Sir John Henniker, bart., who ultimately became the proprietor.

The family of Henniker, Heneker, or, as it was originally called, *De Henekin*, has been of long continuance in this county; one of that name, Peter de Henekin, having been lieutenant governor of Dover castle, in the reign of Edward II. They afterwards, under Edward IV., wrote themselves Heneker, and resided in different parishes of this county, wherein their estates were situated. John, who died at Lenham in 1616, was ancestor of those of Chatham and Rochester, from whom was descended Sir John Henniker, bart., of West Ham, who possessed this estate. He married Anne, eldest daughter and coheir of Sir John Major, bart., of Worlingworth hall, in Suffolk; the other daughter having espoused Henry duke of Chandos. Lady Henniker lies interred in the south aisle of Rochester cathedral, under a splendid monument; by whom he had three sons; John Henniker Major, esq., M.P. for Steyning; Major, a merchant in the city of London; and John, a colonel in the army; and one daughter, Elizabeth, married to Edward Stratford, earl of Aldborough. Sir John Major was created a baronet in 1765, when the title was limited, in default of his issue male, to his son-in-law, John Henniker, esq., before mentioned, and his heirs male; at which time a patent also passed for the latter to quarter the arms of Major, viz., *Azure, three pillars of Corinthian order, on the top of each a ball, or, with those of Henniker: gules, a chevron charged with three estoils argent, two crescents in chief, and an escallop in base azure.* Sir John Major died in 1781, upon which the title of baronet descended to his son-in-law, Sir John Henniker, bart., who possessed this manor, and served in two successive parliaments for the town and port of Dover.

READ is a manor in this parish, the mansion of which, called *Read court*, is situated on the northern side of the district. This inheritance once belonged to the family of the Fremingham's, one of whom, John, son of Sir Ralph de Fremingham, of Lose, died, in the 12th of Henry IV., possessed of this manor, who, leaving no issue, by will devised it to feoffees, when they, by deed, the ensuing year, assigned it over to John, son of Reginald

de Pimpe, and his heirs male, with remainder to Roger Isley, as being nearest in blood to him.

This property appears afterwards to have passed into the possession of the Isley's, as William Isley was possessed of the same at the period of his attainder, in the 1st of Queen Mary, when his lands became forfeited to the crown. This manor was then granted to Sir John Baker, attorney general, to hold *in capite*, whose son, Sir Richard Baker, afterwards possessed it; but in the 10th of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, it was in the possession of Edward Morrys, who held it of the queen as before mentioned. In later times it was become the property of the Master's, one of which name, Giles, held it in 1652, as appears by the survey of Marden manor, then taken. In his descendants it continued some time, but at length, after passing to intermediate owners, the property devolved to the possession of Nicholas Bonfoy, esq., sergeant at arms of the House of Commons, who, at his death in 1775, devised it by will to Mr. S. H. Babb, one of the officers of that house, who possessed the same.

Tildens, Tubbins, and Brooke, are three small manors in this parish, having formerly had three distinct owners, bearing the above names. The original branches were persons of some note in this county, having been possessed of estates both at Kennington, Brinchley, and Tilmanstone, as early as the reign of Edward III. Those three families continued in the possession of these manors till the latter end of the reign of Henry IV., when one of the line of the Tubbins' passed away their manor to the Tildens', in which name both Tildens and Tubbins remained till the beginning of the reign of Henry VI., when they were devised by sale to Thomas Stidulfe, esq., who appears, by his will, in 1453, to have likewise purchased Brooke manor of Richard Brooke.

His grandson, Thomas Stidulfe, esq., of Badsell, left an only daughter and heir, Agnes, who carried these three manors in marriage to Richard Fane, esq., of Tudeley. From him they descended, in the same manner as Mereworth, to John Fane, earl of Westmoreland; and from him again, together with the barony of Le Despencer, they passed to the Right Hon. T. Stapleton, lord Le Despencer, who was afterwards possessed of the same.

The liberty *of the corporation of Maidstone* claims over the manor of Tildens, which is situated near Stylebridge, where there is likewise an estate called Little Tildens, which, in 1675, belonged to Thomas Wall, gent., of London. It was afterwards the property of Nicholas Haddock, esq., who sold it to John Cole, esq., who then became possessed of this property.

There was a family of the name of *Symons*, that resided at Marden for some generations, one of which line, Edward Symonds, gent., in 1652 held lands here, previously belonging to Sir John Packington. In 1662 he had a grant of arms, *party per fess sable, and or, a pale, and three cinque foils, counterchanged.* He resided here in 1663, possessed of much land in this parish.

Marden is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. The church consisting of three aisles, and the same number of chancels, is situated very low and damp, at the west end of the town, there having been formerly a chapel therein dedicated to St. John the Baptist. In 1763 this church was beautified by subscription, at the expense of £96 8 9.

Richard de Lucy, chief justice of England, on the foundation and endowment of the abbey at Lesnes, gave to that institution the church of Merden, in pure and perpetual alms; which gift was subsequently confirmed by several kings; there was also a vicarage endowed here by Archbishop Stratford.

In the 8th of Richard II. this church was valued at £26 13 4 annual rental, and, in 1643, Sir William Acton, knight and baronet, was lessee of this rectory, at the yearly rent of £15.

The vicarage was estimated in the king's books at £7 18 4, the yearly tenths being 15s. 10d. In 1557 there were 300 families, and 500 communicants; and, in 1569, 420 families; since which period this parish has greatly increased in population. In 1640 the vicarage was valued at £75 per annum, but was afterwards greatly augmented. There is no glebe land belonging to this living.

Archbishop Juxon, conformably with the king's letters mandatory, in the reign of Charles II. augmented this vicarage by increasing the old pension from the lessee of the parsonage, from three, to twenty pounds per annum.

An estate in this parish of about £15 a year, formerly belonging

to Mottenden priory, and subsequently to John Sawbridge, esq., claims an exemption from all tithes whatsoever.

In 1821 there were 354 dwellings in the parish of Marden; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 1100, females 951, making a total of 2051 souls.

Goudhurst lies the next parish southward from Marden. The northern part as far southward as the stream, formerly called Risebridge river, is in the hundred of Marden, and lower division of the lath of Scray; and the remainder of the parish, southward of the above stream, ranks in the hundred of West, otherwise Little Barnefield, and lath of Aylesford, comprehending the whole of that hundred. The portion of this parish within the borough of Faircrouch, is in the hundred of Cranbrook, and those parts within the boroughs of Pattenden, Lilsden, Combwell, and Chingley or Bromley, are in the hundred of Little Barnefield, the residue being within that of Marden. It lies wholly within the district of the Weald, and the division of West Kent.

The borsholders of the boroughs of Highamden, Pattenden, and Hilsden, in this parish, are chosen at the court-leet, holden for the manor of East Farleigh, the inhabitants owing no service but to that manor; a constable for the hundred of West Barnefield only being chosen out of such parts as lay within the same, for that hundred. The manor of Maidstone likewise extends into this parish, over lands as far southward as Risebridge.

The Parish of Goudhurst is very pleasantly situated, being interspersed on every side by frequent hills and dales; it also abounds in oak trees of large dimensions. The land is in general extremely fertile, the soil, similar to that of the adjoining parishes, is chiefly a deep stiff clay, having also a great quantity of rich marle dispersed in various places, the roads in many parts being covered with sand. In the grounds near Finchcocks is a gravel-pit, which we believe to be the only one existing in this part of the county. There is much more pasture than arable land, the former producing fatted bullocks, weighing in general from 120 to 130 stone. This district is well watered by several streams, rising in different parts, all of which uniting with the Teis, flow in one channel along the western side of the parish,

towards the Medway. The eastern and southern parts are much covered with thick coppice wood, chiefly oak. The turnpike road from Maidstone, over Coxsheath, through Marden, leads into the upper part of this parish southward, dividing into two branches at Winchet hill, that to the left goes on to Cranbrooke, and, leaving the town of Goudhurst a little to the right, joins the Cranbrooke road at a small distance beyond it: that to the right having taken in a branch of the Woodgate road, from Tunbridge near Broadford bridge, goes to the town of Goudhurst, and thence eastward to Cranbrooke and Tenterden; while the great high road from Lamberhurst through Stonecrouch, to Hawkhurst and Sussex, runs along the southern bounds of this parish.

The district is about eight miles long, and four broad, the situation being extremely healthy, as sixty years of age is there esteemed, if not the prime, at least the middle age of life.

There are two heaths or commons here, one called Pyleshealth, and the other Killdown, in West Barnefield hundred.

The town or *village of Goudhurst* stands in the hundred of Marden, about half a mile within the lower or southern bounds of the same, on a hill commanding an extensive view of the surrounding country. It is built on the sides of five different roads, which unite at a large pond in the centre; the houses are chiefly large, ancient, and well timbered, one of which, called Brickwall, belonged to the Rev. Mr. Thomas Bathurst; there were also formerly many clothiers resident here, and some little of the woolstapling business was carried on, as Mr. Hasted observes, in his time.

Upon the summit of the hill, whereon the town stands, is the church, a conspicuous object to the neighbouring country, and near it the market-place, which was pulled down, about 1650, and another smaller one built lower down in the town, near the pond. There is a yearly fair on the 26th of August, and a weekly market, which were both granted in the reign of Richard II. to Joan, widow of Roger de Bedgebury, the possessors of which estate claim the privilege of holding them, by a yearly rent to the manor of Marden.

NEARLY *adjoining the town eastward,* on the road leading to TENTERDEN, is a HAMLET called LITTLE GOUDHURST, wherein is an ancient seat designated TAYWELL, which for many

generations was possessed by a family of the name of Lake, that bore for their arms, *sable a bend, between six cross crosslets, fitchee, argent.* In the north aisle of this church is a vault where the remains of that family lie buried, and a marble detailing their descent. The last of this line, Thomas Lake, esq. barrister, resided here, but dying without issue male, his daughters and coheirs became possessed of the property, one of whom married Maximilian Gott, esq., and the other, Thomas Hussey, esq., whose son Edward, of Scotney, afterwards possessed the entire fee of this estate, which was demised for a long term of years, to Mr. Olive, who nearly rebuilt it, and resided there.

At a small distance southward from the above-mentioned seat, is another called Triggs, having been for several generations the residence of the family of the Stringer's, which was of some account in different parts of this county. John, son of Edward Stringer, esq. of Biddenden, by Phillis, his wife, resided here under Charles I. and married Susanna, daughter of Stephen Streeter, of Goudhurst, by whom he had Stephen, of Goudhurst, John, of Ashford, and Edward and Thomas, both of Goudhurst.

Stephen the eldest, son of John, resided at Triggs, in the reign of Charles II., and was succeeded by his second son, Stephen Stringer, esq., sheriff in the reign of Queen Anne, who died without issue male, leaving four daughters coheirs. This seat was afterwards alienated to Francis Austin, esq. of Sevenoak, whose son, Francis Mottley Austin, of the same place, ultimately possessed it. The Stringer's bore for their arms, *per chevron, or and sable, in chief, two eagles displayed, of the second, in the base, a fleur de lis of the first.*

The Manor of Marden claims over the largest district of this parish, part being the dens before mentioned, within the manor of East Farleigh, and the remaining portion, called Wincehurst den, is in the manor of Gillingham, near Chatham. Although that portion of this parish which lies within the hundred of West Barnefield contains those places which are of the greatest note, yet, for the sake of regularity, we begin with those in the hundred of Marden, partly described, and thence proceed to the hundred of West Barnefield.

Bokinfold is a manor of large extent, situated in the hundred of Marden, having formerly had an extensive park, and demesnes attached thereto, extending into the parishes of Brenchley,

Horsemonden, Yalding, Marden, and Goudhurst. The mansion was situated in that of Yalding, in the description of which parish the reader will find an ample account of its former state and possessors; it will therefore be sufficient to mention here, in addition thereto, that the whole of this manor devolving at length to the possession of Sir Alexander Colepeper, he, in the 3d of Queen Elizabeth, levied a fine, and three years afterwards alienated that part of this manor, and all the demesnes, which lay in Brenchley, Horsemonden, Yalding, and Marden, to Roger Revell, and THE REMAINDER OF THE SAME, *in this parish*, to the Sharpeigh's. A descendant of the latter, Stephen, passed that part of the property away in 1582, to Richard Reynolds, whose son and heir, John, in the reign of Elizabeth, conveyed it to Richard Eliot, who, about the year 1601, alienated it to Thomas Girdler. It then passed through various hands till sold to Mr. Stephen Stringer, of Triggs, in Goudhurst, whose son of the same name, in the reign of Queen Anne, left four daughters his coheirs, of whom, Elizabeth, the third, married Edward Bathurst, esq., of Finchcocks, when, upon a division of their inheritance, he in her right became possessed of this manor. He died in 1772, upon which this estate went to his son, the Rev. Thomas Bathurst, rector of Welwyn, in Hertfordshire. A court baron is held for this manor.

In 1641 the archbishop of Canterbury collated Richard Amhurst, clerk to the free chapels of BOKINFOLD and NEWSTED annexed, in the archdeaconry of Canterbury, then vacant, and under his patronage.

COMBORNE is an *estate* situated in the northern part of this parish, adjoining also Winchet hill, in the hundred of Marden, which spot, denominated *Winchet hill*, was anciently the original seat, in this county, of the family of the Roberts, of Glastonbury.

An ancestor of this family, William Rookhurst, a native of Scotland, left his country, and came to England in the 3d of Henry I., having subsequently had the surname of Roberts, when purchasing lands at Winchet hill, he built a mansion, and called the same *Rookherst*. This place was afterwards named *Ladiesden Rokehurst*, or *Curtesden*, and remained the residence of that family till the reign of Richard II., when Stephen Roberts, or Rookherst, marrying Joan, daughter and heir of William Tilley,

of Glassonbury, removed thither, so that the remains of their residence here are so totally effaced, as only to be recognized by the family evidences and report of the neighbourhood.

However, their estate at Winchet hill, continued for several subsequent generations in their descendants, till it was at length alienated to one of the family of Maplesden, of Marden, in whose name, this estate, together with that of Comborne adjoining, continued down to Edward Maplesden, esq. of the Middle Temple. He died in 1755, intestate, upon which they descended to Alexander Courthope, esq., of Horsemonden, son of his sister Catherine, and to Charles Booth, esq., grandson of his sister Anne, as his coheirs in gavelkind; when, on a partition of those estates, Winchet hill was allotted to Charles Booth, esq., afterwards Sir Charles, of Harrietsham place, who died possessed of the estate in 1795, and his executors retained it for the purposes of his will. Comborne was given to Alexander Courthope, esq. since deceased, and his nephew, John Cole, esq. afterwards inherited the same.

Finchcocks is a seat in this parish, situated within the hundred of Marden, and in that angle which extends southwestward below Hope mill, and is also within that manor. It was formerly the mansion of a family, bearing the same surname, which was possessed of this property as early as the 40th of Henry III. They were succeeded by that of Horden, of Horden, one of which name purchased it in the beginning of the reign of Henry VI. Edward Horden, esq., clerk of the green cloth to Edward VI., Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth, who had, for some considerable service to the crown, the augmentation of a *regal diadem* added to his paternal coat by Queen Elizabeth, afterwards enjoyed this estate, who left two daughters coheirs, Elizabeth, married to Mr. Paul Bathurst, of Bathurst street, in Nordiam, and Mary to Mr. Delves, of Fletchings, who had Horden for his share. Finchcocks was possessed by Mr. Bathurst, and in his descendants this seat continued down to Thomas Bathurst, esq. who by will demised the same, with the estate, to his nephew Edward, only son of his younger brother William, of Wilmington. He leaving the latter residence on having this seat devised to him, removed hither, and rebuilt it at a vast expense, in a most superb manner. He resided here till his death in 1772, having been twice married, leaving several children by each of his wives.

By the first, Elizabeth, third daughter of Stephen Stringer, esq. of Triggs, he had three sons, Edward, John, and Thomas, and prior to his death conveyed this seat and estate by sale to his son, by his second wife, Mr. Charles Bathurst, who, on his decease in 1767, devised it by will to his brother, the Rev. Mr. Richard Bathurst, of Rochester. This branch of the family of the Bathurst's bore for their arms the same coat as those of Franks, in this county, and of Cirencester, Lydney, and Clarendon, viz. *sable, two bars ermine, in chief, three crosses pattee or, with a crescent for difference;* but with another crest, viz. *party per fess and pale, a demi wolf argent and sable, holding a regal crown, or.* The latter we believe to have been the shield borne by Edward Horden, and his heir, Paul Bathurst, their ancestor, also married, whose arms they equally quartered with their own.

At no great distance from Finchcocks, in the same hundred, lies a capital messuage, called Riseden, or Gatehouse, which formerly belonged to a family named Sabbe, one of whom, Simon Sabbe, sold it before the middle of the last century, to Mr. Robert Bathurst. From him it descended down, with an adjoining estate called Trillingherst, to another Robert Bathurst, who died in 1731, and was interred in this church, when his daughter, Mary, sold both to Sir Horace Mann, who afterwards possessed them.

The Hundred of West, or Little Barnefield, lies adjoining to that of Marden southward, and is in the lath of Aylesford; it only consists of the remaining part of the parish of Goudhurst, as yet undescribed.

Nearly in the centre of this part of Goudhurst, stands the eminent seat called Bedgebury, surrounded by a considerable tract of woodland, the largest portion of which is now known by the names of *Bedgebury park, and the Fryth woods.*

This seat, in remote antiquity, gave residence and surname to the possessors, one of whom, John de Bedgbury, as appears by an old dateless deed, probably of the time of Edward II., demised lands to William de Comeden, of Comeden house, in these parts; the seal affixed to that instrument being a knight in armour, caparisoned *cap-a-pie.*

His descendant, John, also son of John de Bedgebury, died in 1424, and was buried in this church, when his sister, Agnes,

became his heir, and entitled her husband, John Colepeper, to this seat, with the appendant manors of *Bedgebury and Ford.* He was the second son of Walter Colepeper, of Goudhurst, descended from those of Bayhall, in this county, and was afterwards knighted, having been also sheriff in the 7th of Edward IV., at which time he resided at Bedgebury, where he died in 1480, and was interred near his father, in this church, leaving two sons, viz., Alexander, who was of Bedgebury; and Walter, ancestor of the Colepeper's, of Leeds castle, Hollingborne, and the Charterhouse.

Sir Alexander Colepeper, the son, was sheriff in the 15th and 22d of Henry VII., and the 6th of Henry VIII. Thomas, his eldest son, also of Bedgebury, procured the *disgavelment* of his lands in the 2d and 3d of Edward VI., in the latter of which he served the office of sheriff. His grandson, Anthony, was also of Bedgebury, and knighted by Queen Elizabeth, who, in her progress through Kent in 1573, honoured this seat with her presence; and it is said, in Camden's Remains, to the reputation of this family, that there were twelve knights and baronets alive of the renowned house of Colepeper at the same time.

He had twelve sons and four daughters; of the surviving sons, Henry, the third male offspring, was of Endford, in Wiltshire; and Thomas, the fifth, of St. Stephen's, near Canterbury. Sir Alexander, the eldest son, succeeded his father, and resided at Bedgebury, in the reign of James I., who left an only daughter, Anne, married to Thomas Snelgrave, esq.; upon whose death, this seat and estate appears to have descended by entail to his next brother, William Colepeper, esq., who died about the time of the restoration of Charles II. His son, Thomas, alienated Bedgebury, with its appendant manors, to Sir James Hayes, who married Rachael viscountess Falkland, when the latter nobleman rebuilt this seat, at a small distance from the ancient mansion.

After his death, when much litigation ensued in the court of Chancery, Edward Stephenson, esq., who had a considerable mortgage on this estate, was put in possession of the same by that court; and on his death, in 1782, it devolved to his cousin, Capt. Edward Stephenson, who died in the East Indies, and devised this property to Miss Peach, who soon afterwards sold

it to John Cartier, esq., when he became possessed of these manors, with the seat and estate of Bedgebury.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, there was an extensive park, adjoining the seat, of which there are no longer any remains. John Cartier resided at Bedgebury, where he was sheriff in 1789, and made considerable improvements in the house and lands.

A court-baron is regularly held for the manor of Bedgebury.

Twysden Borough, anciently called *Twysenden*, is now generally designated *Burr's farm*, which name is a contraction from the word *borough*, to *burgh*, and thence to Burr. It was once styled a manor, and lies in the hundred of West Barnefield, at a small distance northward from Bedgebury. It is worthy of notice, from having been the ancient inheritance of the family of the Twysden's, who thence originally derived their name, being at first called *De Twysenden*, and in Latin *De Denna Fracta*, according to the quaint style of those times.

Adam de Twysenden, or Twysden, possessed this estate in the reign of Edward I., as did his descendant, Roger, in the 5th of Henry IV., as appears by a deed sealed with an impression of a cockatrice in wax, which was in the possession of the late Sir William Jarvis Twysden, bart., of East Peckham. This was rather a singular circumstance, for, in those times, crests were very unusual, and only began to be customary when the eminent families, who took part in the two factions of the houses of York and Lancaster, assumed them as marks to distinguish the party to which they adhered. This crest is still borne by the different branches of the family of the Twysden's.

Roger Twysden married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Thomas Chilmington, esq., of Chilmington, in Great Chart, to which place his son, Roger, removed, making it his residence. In the reign of Henry VI. he sold this estate to Roger Riseden, of Riseden, in this parish, who alienated it to Jeffry Allen; and he, about the latter end of the same reign, settled it, by deed, on Thomas Windhill. It was then, for several descents, possessed by the family of the Austen's; in which name it continued till, by Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of William Austen, gent., of Goudhurst, it passed in marriage to Anthony Fowle, of Rotherfield, in Sussex. He, on his death, devised it to his second son, Simon Fowle, esq., of this place, who died possessed of it, leaving an only daughter. He bore for arms *Gules*,

a lion passant, guardant, between three roses, or. Soon after the property went to the family of the Bathurst's, being a younger branch of those of Finchcocks; from which it was sold to Jeffry Gilbert, baron of the Exchequer; and afterwards to John Norris, esq., of Hemsted, in Benenden, eldest son of Admiral Sir John Norris, who died in 1767, and was succeeded by his son, John Norris, esq., whose trustees sold it to John Cartier, esq., of Bedgebury.

ADJOINING TWYSDEN borough, is the BOROUGH OF LILSDEN, the manor of which, some years back, belonged to one Springet, and afterwards to Mr. John Noaks, gent. Since which it was conveyed to John Cartier, esq., of Bedgebury.

THE BOROUGH OF PATTENDEN, over which the manor of East Farleigh claims, was once reputed a manor, and is situated at the uppermost or northern part of this hundred. It gave both seat and surname to a family that possessed it, as appears by deeds, as early as the reign of Edward I. They continued owners of this estate at the latter end of the reign of Henry VI., in the 29th year of which, on the commission then issued out to Jervas Clifton, esq., sheriff of this county, to return all those who bore *Arma Antiqua,* the name of Pattenden, then possessor of this manor, was returned among them. His descendant alienated it to Sir Maurice Berkley, standardbearer to Henry VIII., King Edward VI., and Queen Elizabeth. By his will, in 1581, he gave his manor of Pattenden to Robert, his fourth son, being the eldest by his second wife, daughter of Sir Anthony Sondes, of Throwley; and he, in the same reign, alienated it to Mr. William Beswicke, of Spelmonden, in Horsemonden; after which it passed in the same manner as that seat down to Hugh Marriott, esq., who died in 1753, and devised it to his daughter, Anne Marriott.

CHINGLEY, now more commonly called *Shingley,* is a manor and estate, situated in this parish, on the western side of the same hundred. It constituted, in the reign of Edward I., part of the possessions of the Cistertian abbey of Boxley, the abbot of which, under Edward III., obtained a charter of *free warren* for his demesne lands in his manor of Chingele, in this parish, which continued part of the possessions of that abbey till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., who, in his 36th year, granted it, with other premises in Goudhurst and Staplehurst, to Thomas

Colepeper, esq., to hold *in capite* by knight's service. He, two years after, alienated the manor of Chingley and Chingley wood, to Thomas Darell, of Scotney, and Stephen, of Horsemonden, sons of Thomas Darell, esq., of Scotney, the former of whom became at length sole possessor of this manor and estate. In the reign of Elizabeth, he sold one moiety of the property to William Campion, barrister at law; and the other he retained, which continued in his name and family down to John Darell, esq., of Scotney; who, in 1774, alienated Chingley wood to Mr. John Hammond, and the moiety of the manor to Mr. John Richards, who, in 1779, sold it to Edward Hussey, esq., of Scotney, who thus became possessor of the same.

The other moiety, however, of this manor and estate, called, for distinction, LITTLE CHINGLEY, or *Shingley*, which had been alienated to William Campion, esq., who was of Combwell, in this parish, continued in his lineal descendant, William John Campion, esq., son of Henry Courthope Campion, esq., of Danny, in Sussex.

THE MANOR OF COMBWELL lies in the same hundred, on part of which, at a place then called *Henle*, Robert de Thurnham, in the reign of King Henry II., founded a PRIORY, for canons of the order of St. Augustine, which he dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and endowed the same with Henle, Cumbewell, and other possessions, in perpetual alms; which gift was confirmed by his son Stephen de Thurnham, together with all its possessions, by Henry III., who, at the same time, granted to them a fair, on the feast and morrow of St. Mary Magdalen. In the 8th of Richard II., the whole revenue of this priory was valued at £66 2 6. Tanner states, that it was an abbey, but, on account of the charge of supporting the state of so great a prelate, as an abbot, was on that account reduced to a priory. It was subject to the see of Canterbury, the prior constantly making his profession of obedience to the archbishop; and so continued till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., when it was surrendered into the king's hands by Thomas Vincent, then prior, who had a pension of £10 per annum accorded, for his future maintenance.

King Henry VIII., in the following year, granted the late priory of Combwell, with the manors of Combwell, Lestherst, Hook, and Coldred, in this county, to Thomas Colepeper, to hold

in capite by knight's service; but he did not long possess them, for the king, in his 34th year, granted them to Sir John Gage, as a reward for his services during the expedition to Scotland. He was a distinguished character, both in a military and civil capacity, and became one of the most eminent men of his time. He was constable of the Tower, knight of the garter, and lord chamberlain of the household; from whom descended the Gage's of Firle, baronets, the lord viscount Gage, and the Gage's of Suffolk, baronets. He bore for his arms *Gyrony of four, azure and argent, a saltire gules.* He appears to have exchanged the manor of Combwell and the site of the priory, and other premises belonging thereto, in Goudhurst, with Thomas Colepeper, esq., of Bedgebury; whose son, Sir Alexander, in the reign of Elizabeth, alienated them to William Campion, esq., who resided and died here in 1615. His son, Sir William Campion, was a most valiant and loyal gentleman, and entered early into the service of Charles I. Being in Colchester with his regiment, at the time that place was assaulted by the rebels, under General Fairfax, namely, June 13, 1648, he was, in a sally, slain, and buried in the chancel of St. Peter's, Colchester, aged only thirty-four. He left a son, William, of Combwell, who married Frances, daughter of Sir John Glynne, by whom he had issue two sons and six daughters; of the former, Henry Campion, the eldest, succeeded to this estate. His son and heir, William Campion, esq., of Danny, possessed this estate, and died 1778; and his grandson, William John Campion, was the last owner. This family bears for its arms *Argent on a chief gules, an eagle displayed or.*

A court-leet and court-baron is held for this manor, at the hamlet of Stonecrouch, in this parish, which claims over the whole of this hundred of West or Little Barnefield.

There are two schools in this parish, that were founded by John Horsemonden, esq., one for teaching grammar and the Latin language, and the other for English. The former was superintended by the Rev. Mr. Dowthwait, who had a salary of £35 yearly; the latter under that of a widow, who had an income of £5 per annum.

There is also *another school,* at Riseden, in this parish, founded by the will of Thomas Bathurst, esq., of Finchcocks, who devised £5 per annum, for ever, for *an English school* here,

and 20s. yearly, to be expended in books, for the use of this institution.

Goudhurst is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. The church, dedicated to the blessed Virgin, is a large handsome building, consisting of three aisles and the same number of chancels. It has a low tower at the west end, with a smaller one at the corner, surmounted by a pointed turret, covered with lead, having a vane on the top, there being also a peal of eight bells: no painted glass is left, in the windows of this structure. One half of the south chancel belongs to the Bedgebury estate, wherein are several monuments and memorials of the family of the Colepeper's; one of which presents a tomb of Bethersden marble, with figures, in brass, of a man and woman, with their six children. Over the same is an arch, supposed to be for one of the above family; several grave-stones being also here, with figures in brass, on one of which are the arms of the Colepeper's: *Argent, a bend engrailed gules*, empaling *three harts' heads couped*, the inscription being gone. Against the south wall is a most sumptuous sculptured monument, composed of many different coloured marbles, displaying the figures of a man and woman; one circumstance rather unusual is, that the female appears on the right hand, both kneeling at two desks. Behind the male form, is a youth, kneeling; beneath, are the five daughters, with eleven sons, and two still-born infants. Under the latter is an inscription for Thomas Colepeper, esq., of Bedgebury, eldest son of Ould Sir Alexander Colepeper, of the same place, obt. 1550; of Sir Alexander, son of the said Thomas, obt. 1599; and another inscription, stating that Sir Anthony, son and heir of the same Sir Alexander, raised this tomb in 1608, æt. 48, being then living. In the south aisle appears a bow window; in the recess of which is a tomb of Bethersden marble, wherein lie, at full length, the figures of a man and woman, most curiously *carved in wood*, habited in the ornaments and dress of their time, with two greyhounds lying at their feet; at the west end of which tomb are the arms of the Colepeper's. These figures are, perhaps, the most worthy notice of any in the kingdom; but through neglect, from wet and the weather beating in upon them, are likely, Mr. Hasted says, in a very few years, to fall to decay.

Against the east wall, is an historical carved work, in stone,

with a relief, in miniature, of a man and woman kneeling at a desk, behind whom are six daughters and five sons. On the desk or altar appears Anno 1535, in ancient characters; in the high chancel is also a mural monument, with effigies kneeling, in memory of William Campion, esq., obt. 1615, and Rachael his wife.

In the south chancel is a monument for William Campion, esq., supporting his bust, in white marble, obt. 1702; one half of which chancel belongs to the Combwell estate. In the churchyard are several tomb-stones of the Stringer's; as well as a remarkable yew-tree that measured, when Mr. Hasted wrote, twenty-seven feet in circumference.

A tremendous storm of thunder and lightning, on the 23d of August, 1637, set fire to the lofty spire on the tower of this church, which melted the five great bells, and also destroyed all the timber and woodwork of the steeple. A brief was, in consequence, made to repair the damage, estimated at £2745, which the parishioners could by no means sustain, owing to the number of poor which had considerably increased.

Robert de Crevequer, on the founding of his priory at Leeds, in 1119, endowed it with all the churches of his estate, among which was this of Gutherste, with twenty acres of land in this parish, together with all their customs, goods, liberties, and privileges.

The church and vicarage remained part of the possessions of the above priory till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., who settled them both on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester, in whom they are still vested.

In the 8th of Richard II., the church of Goudhurst, appropriated to the prior and convent of Leeds, was valued at £13 6 8, the vicarage being, in the king's books, estimated at £26 19 2, when the yearly tenths were £2 13 11. In 1640 it was valued at £100, communicants then being 900. It was endowed with all tithes, excepting corn and grain.

The dean and chapter of Rochester possessed a *portion of tithes* in this parish, the lessee of which was William Campion, esq.

In 1821 there were 385 dwellings in the parish of Goudhurst; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 1299, females 1280, making a total of 2579 souls.

THE
HUNDRED OF BRENCHLEY AND HORSEMONDEN

Lies next southward from that of Wachlingstone, but is not mentioned in the survey of Domesday. In the 7th of King Edward I., as also in the 20th of Edward III., it was called the hundred of *Brenchesley* only. The subsequent addition of Horsemonden being in fact no more than that of one of the two half hundreds into which this hundred was then divided.

In the 7th of King Edward I., that prince and the archbishop of Canterbury were lords of this hundred, which contains part of the parishes of Brenchley, Lamberhurst, and Horsemonden, with the churches of those parishes.

Brenchley, written in old deeds Branchesle, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, Btæncesle, lies the next parish eastward from Pembury, the whole village being nearly within this hundred, though the hundred of Twyford extends over a narrow district of this parish, into the town of Brenchley, some of the houses on the eastern side being within its jurisdiction.

The boroughs of Stoberfield and Roeden, in this parish, are within the manors of East Farleigh and East Peckham, the lands whereof are held in *free socage* tenure.

This parish is of large extent, being upwards of four miles from north to south, and about three wide. It consists of hill and dale; the soil varies on the hill, where the village stands, consisting of sand, intermixed with much rock or sandstone, which soil continues over the northern part and towards Horsemonden green; the remainder is a stiff miry clay in winter, excepting the high road, and in summer has a surface as hard as iron. This parish is covered with wood, especially on the skirts, the whole presenting a gloomy aspect, from the number of large spreading oaks flourishing throughout. The houses are chiefly old-fashioned timber buildings, situated, in general, round the different small greens or forstals; the by-roads are

broad, and covered on either side with green sword; several hop plantations formerly flourished in these parts.

The village or town of Brenchley is pleasantly situated on a hill, the turnpike road leading through it towards Horsemonden, Goudhurst, and the southern parts of the Weald. The houses are large and ancient structures; at the south-east end is the church and parsonage; whence, at a small distance eastward, is a seat called Broad Oak, which, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was purchased of several persons by George Paine, citizen of London, whose heirs, in 1698, alienated the property to Mr. John Hooker, of West Peckham, younger brother of Thomas, the grandfather of Thomas, late of Tunbridge. His son, of the same name, died in 1717, when his third son, Stephen, became possessed of the estate, and left one son, John Hooker, esq., of Broad Oak, which seat he rebuilt, leaving one son, Stephen, who afterwards resided there.

About a mile westward of the village, near Matfield green, is a house which belonged to Mr. Bowles, merchant, whose father rebuilt it, and resided here, as many of his ancestors had done for some generations. At a small distance from Broad Oak, at castle hill, just at the point of the eminence, stands the remarkable toll of trees, called Brenchley toll, which, from their elevated situation, are striking objects for many miles round.

In the adjoining wood are the remains of a square moat, containing between three and four acres of ground, probably the site of some manor. This farm, with the wood belonging thereto, were the property of Mr. John Monckton; they have no particular appellation, but an extensive manor appears once to have belonged thereto.

There are the remains of another mote or intrenchment in this parish, of great width and depth, that undoubtedly once enclosed a building of considerable strength, the area of which is not quite so large as that before mentioned; no name, however, appertains either to the wood or farm adjoining. The family of the Daffy's, of Rumford, in Essex, were formerly owners, and continued so till one of them alienated the property to Mr. Thomas Outeridge.

The manor of Brenchley was anciently part of the possions of the noble family of the Clare's, the descendants of which were afterwards earls of Gloucester and Hertford, with

whom this manor continued, down to Edward duke of Buckingham, who being found guilty of high treason, was, in the reign of Henry VIII., beheaded, when this manor being vested in the crown, was granted, with other premises in this parish, to Paul Sydnor, esq. His son, William, in the reign of Elizabeth, passed it away by sale to William Lambarde, esq., of Greenwich, the perambulator, who settled it on the almshouse he had founded in that parish, called Queen Elizabeth's hospital, with this limitation, that the heirs male of his line should hold it in lease for ever, and in case they failed, the last of that race should have power to dispose of his interest therein by will. In virtue of that reservation, the lease of this manor passed in direct succession to Malton Lambarde, esq., of Sevenoak, in this county.

Criols is another manor lying about a mile and a half south-west from Brenchley village, which, in the reign of Henry III., was in the possession of the eminent family of the Criol's, in which reign Bertram de Criol held it, as half a knight's fee, of Alicia de Waltham, as she did of the earl of Gloucester. He resided at Ostenhanger, in this county, which seat he rebuilt, and being much in favor with the above monarch, was, among other offices of trust, made sheriff of Kent, in the 16th and 26th years of that reign, having also had the custody of the castles of Dover and Rochester.

His great grandson, John de Criol, died in the 34th of the reign of Edward I., leaving Joan his sister, his heir, married to Sir Richard de Rokesle, who, in her right, inherited this manor. His eldest daughter and coheir, Agnes, married Thomas de Poynings, and entitled him to this property; in whose name and descendants it continued down to Sir Edward Poynings, who died possessed of the same, under Henry VIII., leaving no legitimate issue, upon which this manor became escheated to the crown. It so remained till that monarch granted it to Paul Sydnor, esq., his ambassador or envoy at the court of Spain, who died in the reign of Edward VI.; and his son, William, under Elizabeth, passed it away, with the manor of Brenchley, to William Lambarde, esq. of Greenwich. He settled it in the same manner in which he had bestowed that of Brenchley; and, with the same limitations, it passed to Malton Lambarde, esq., of Sevenoak.

THE MANOR OF MASCALLS, anciently called *Marescalls*, with the *two appendant* of COPGROVE and CHEKESWELL, are situated near the northern boundary of this parish.

The first, as appears by ancient writings, in the reign of Edward II., was owned by the family of the Colepeper's, one of whom, Walter, died possessed of it, in the last year of that reign, holding the property in *gavelkind*, as appears by the inquisition then taken, and certain tenements in the parish of Brenchley, called Marescales, of the Lord Hugh de Audley, as of his honour of Tunbridge, by the service of paying, yearly, at his larder, eight hogs and a half, value 15s.; and that his sons, Thomas, Geoffry, and John Colepeper, were his heirs, and next of kin.

COPGRAVE was in possession of a family of the same name, which afterwards became owners also of *Chekeswell*, the same having, in the preceding reign of Edward I., been in the possession of the family of the Hoese's. Henry de Hoese died possessed of this property under Edward I., leaving a son Henry his heir, who, in the 22d of that reign, was summoned to parliament among the barons of the realm. From one of that family of Copgrave, as it is supposed, was descended, though some time afterwards, John Copgrave, the famous friar eremite of St. Augustine, S.T.P. of Oxford, and at length provincial of his order in England, who was, most probably, a native of this place.

Humphrey duke of Gloucester, was his patron, under whose protection he published those works which so eminently distinguished him as a man of the first-rate abilities. He died at Lynn in 1484. One of the same line, John de Copgrave, in the reign of Edward II., sold both these manors to John de Vane, who had likewise become owner of the manor of Marescals, and his heir, Robert, paid aid for all three, in the reign of Edward III., as half a knight's fee, which John de Copgrave held in Brenchesley, at Chekeswell, of the earl of Gloucester.

These manors continued in the name of Vane till the latter end of the reign of Henry VI., when one of that family alienated them to Humphrey Stafford, duke of Buckingham, from whom they passed in succession to his great grandson, Edward duke of Buckingham, who was beheaded, as before mentioned.

Soon after the attainder of the duke, the manors of Mascalls and Copgrave, for we find no mention of Chekeswell, were granted to John Lyghe, who died possessed of them in the 15th

year of that reign, when they devolved to the possession of Sir Edward Ferrars, of Badsley Clinton, in Warwickshire, son of Sir Henry, by Margaret Hextall, of East Peckham, in this county. He died in 1535, and his great-grandson Henry appears to have passed them away by sale, in the reign of Elizabeth, to Whetenhall, commonly called Whetnall, of East Peckham, who sold them, under James I., to one Ouldsworth. The latter, not long after, conveyed them to one Bartue, and he, in the reign of Charles I., transferred them by sale to Mr. Charles Tucker, whose son owned them at the restoration, A. D. 1660. How they afterwards passed we do not find, but in the beginning of the 18th century they were vested in the name of Putland, when Mr. George Putland of Tunbridge devised them by will to Mr. Thomas Barton of Sevenoak, his nephew, for life, with remainder to Mr. Thomas Barton, his great nephew, of Court lodge, in Hadlow, whose son, John, afterwards possessed the same.

Parrocks is a manor that lies at the northern boundary of this parish, within the hundred of Twyford, and was anciently a manor appendant to that of West Malling, having been given by Gundulph, bishop of Rochester, in the 4th of William Rufus, to the benedictine nunnery, founded there by him about that time.

This manor remained part of the possessions of the abbey of Malling till the dissolution under Henry VIII. when, being surrendered to the king, that monarch granted it, with the rest of the possessions of the abbey, in exchange for other premises, to Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury. These estates were again exchanged with the crown in the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth, where the fee of the manor of Parrocks continued till granted by James I. to John Rayney, esq., which grant was confirmed by Charles I. in his 2d year, to Sir John Rayney, bart. His eldest son, who was of Wrotham place, in this county, did not, however, gain possession of the property till about the death of Charles I., as it had been leased out by the abbess and convent for many years to the family of the Hextall's, of East Peckham. One of that name, William, dying without issue male, his only daughter and heir carried it in marriage to William Whetenhall, whose descendant, Sir Richard, sold the remainder of his term therein to George Brooke, lord Cobham, who died possessed of the same under Philip and Mary. His son, Sir William Brooke, lord Cobham, succeeded him, and in

the 12th of Elizabeth, procured a fresh term for this manor, and then alienated it to Sir Thomas Fane, of Badsell, whose grandson, Mildmay, earl of Westmoreland, afterwards possessed it, during whose life the lease expired, when the fee devolved to Sir John Rayney, as above mentioned. Shortly after that period the property was alienated to a Bosville, in which name it continued till Henry Bosville, esq., of Bradborne, in Sevenoak, dying in 1761 unmarried, devised it among the rest of his estates in tail male to his kinsman, Sir Richard Betenson, bart., and he died in 1786, when it passed by the limitations of the same will, to Thomas Lane, esq. of Sevenoak.

A court-baron is regularly held for this manor.

It appears by the escheat rolls that there was an estate here called Moatlands, which formerly constituted part of the possessions of the eminent family of the Pimpe's. Reginald Pimpe died in the 16th of Henry VI., possessed of a messuage in Brenchley, called *Le Moat,* soon after which it appears to have passed to a family, denominated from its residence in this parish by the name of Brenchley, one of which was Sir William Bruchelle, or Brenchley, a justice of the Common Pleas, who died in 1446, without issue, and lies buried, with Joan his wife, in the nave of Canterbury cathedral. They bore for their arms, *a cross patent engrailed,* as may be seen carved on the roof of the cloisters of the above-mentioned edifice.

John Brenchley, esq. was owner of this property in the reign of Henry VI., and left an only daughter and heir, Margaret, who carried it in marriage to William More, esq., of More court, in Ivechurch. He was succeeded by his son, Walter More, esq., of Benenden, who died in the 19th of Henry VII., leaving two sons, Thomas, of Benenden, and William, of Bettenham, in Cranbrooke, between whom this estate became divided, the line of separation crossing the moat and the foundations of the old mansion. *That part of Moatlands* to which the manorial rights were annexed, was allotted to the former, whose son John, about the reign of Queen Mary, alienated Moatlands to Thomas Roberts, otherwise Robertes, gent., who lies buried with his three wives, Elizabeth, Joan, and Agnes, in this church. His descendants resided here till George Roberts left a son Walter, and a daughter, Margaret, married to Sir Walter Roberts, bart., of Glassenbury, and on the death of her brother, without issue,

she entitled her husband to this estate. From him the moiety in question descended in direct succession to Sir Walter Roberts, bart., of Glassenbury, who died in 1745, leaving an only daughter and heir, Jane, who carried the property in marriage to George, duke of St. Alban's. He survived her, and afterwards possessed a life estate therein, and died in 1786, upon which it devolved, by the will of the duchess, to John Roberts, esq., who subsequently possessed the same.

The other part of Moatlands appears to have been alienated from the descendants of William More, of Bettenham, about the reign of Queen Elizabeth, to George Payne, of London, by whose heirs it was sold, in 1698, with Broadoaks, in this parish, as before mentioned, to John Hooker, esq.

Catt's Place, with the manor belonging thereto, called *Catlets*, otherwise *Salmon*, is also situated in this parish, about a mile northward from Brenchey town, but within the hundred of Twyford, being held of the manor of Yalding. The mansion was anciently the residence of Hugh de Catt, from whom it acquired this name. His descendants continued to possess it till the reign of Henry VI., when it was passed to the Tilden's, of Marden, one of whose descendants, after the death of Charles I., alienated it to one Bassage, in which name it continued till William Bassage, esq. sold it to James Turvin, esq., of Hertfordshire, and his son, of the same name, leaving two daughters coheirs, one of whom married Robert Buttery, esq., she entitled her husband to the possession of this property.

Stockshill and Studmore are two manors which had anciently owners, who assumed their surnames from these estates, and continued thus distinguished till the reign of Henry VI. when the latter, by purchase, became vested in the family of the Stocks. Under Henry VIII. both these manors devolved to the possession of Paul Sydnor, esq., who was also owner of other estates in this parish; and his son, William Sydnor, in the reign of Elizabeth, conveyed them by sale to Robert Berney, who, about 1584, alienated them to Robert Byng, esq. He died possessed of Stockshill and Stodmerhill manors, in Brenchley and Yalding in 1595, as appears by the inquisition then taken, after which they remained in his descendants down to his great grandson, John Byng, esq., who, soon after the restoration, alienated both these manors. Since the above period,

after passing into the hands of several intermediate owners, they became vested in the name of Mr. John Monckton.

BRENCHLEY is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church is dedicated to All Saints, and contains some monuments and inscriptions for the families of the Roberts's and the Courthope's, as well as an inscription for Elizabeth, wife of George Fane, esq., of Tudely, A.D. 1566.

This church appears anciently to have been esteemed but a chapel to the adjoining parish-church of Yalding, Richard de Clare, earl of Hertford, having given that church, with this chapel and all its appurtenances, in pure and perpetual alms, to the priory of Tunbridge, founded by him.

This rectory remained, with the advowson and vicarage of the MANOR OF BARNES, in the priory of Tunbridge, till the reign of Henry VIII. who granted them to Cardinal Wolsey, for the endowment of his college, called Cardinal's college, in Oxford; but that great prelate being cast in a *præmunire*, all the estates of the above-mentioned college were forfeited, and devolved to the king, who, in the 31st of his reign, granted them to Paul Sydnor, gent. to hold *in capite* by knight's service. His son, William, succeeded to these premises in the 5th of Queen Elizabeth, and, not long after, alienated them to William Waller, esq., of Groombridge, who married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir Walter Hendley, by whom he had three sons and three daughters. She survived him, and appears to have possessed these estates in Brenchley, and afterwards married George Fane, esq. of Badsell.

Her eldest son by her first husband, Sir Walter Waller, succeeded her; and his son, Sir Thomas, of Groombridge, alienated the manor of Barnes and the rectory of Brenchley, with the advowson of the vicarage, to John Courthope, esq., afterwards of Brenchley, youngest brother of Sir George Courthope, of Whileigh, in Sussex. He died possessed of the same in 1649; in whose family they continued down to George Courthope, esq. of Uckfield, in Sussex. This family is supposed by some to have been originally seated at Courthope street, commonly written *Court at Street*, near Lymne, in this county. One branch settled at Goddard's green, in Cranbrooke, from which descended those of Danny, in Sussex, and of Horsemonden, in this county,

both now extinct. Another branch settled at Stodmarsh, near Canterbury, of which no trace remains; and another at Whileigh, in Sussex, the only one of which resided at Uckfield, in that county. Of this latter branch was George Courthope, esq. who possessed this rectory, and whose father and grandfather, both of the name of George, intermarried into the family of Campion, of Danny, in Sussex. Mr. George Courthope (whose younger brother, Henry, vicar of this parish, died a bachelor,) married Frances Barbara, daughter of William Campion, esq. of Danny, and had two sons, George, and William, afterwards vicar of this parish; and a daughter, Frances. They bore for their arms *Argent, a fess between three effoils azure.*

The vicarage was valued in the king's books at £12 18 9, the yearly tenths being £1 5 10½. In 1608 there were 664 communicants.

In 1821, there were 390 dwellings in the parish of Brenchley; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 1185, females 1079, making a total of 2264 souls.

LAMBERHURST is the next parish southward from Brenchley, and probably derived its name from the soft clay on which it is situated, and the woods wherewith it so plentifully abounds; *Lam*, in the Saxon language, signifying a soft loam or clay; and *hurst*, a wood; which name has been, from use, changed into the present appellation of Lamberhurst.

The STREAM which rises in WATERDOWN forest, Sussex, being one of the principal heads of the Medway, runs through this parish, and separates the county from that of Sussex, in which the larger part of the parish lies. That portion on the northern side of the stream, in this county, is about two miles across in extent, the surface being one continued hill and dale. The soil near the village is sandy, but the chief part is a stiff clay, especially in the large tracts of coppice wood, which extend over the greater portion of the parish. In these and the adjoining woods are several furnaces for melting and manufacturing the iron ore; but the only one in that part of the parish within this county, is called Lamberhurst, otherwise Gloucester furnace, and was so named in honour of the duke of Gloucester,

son of Queen Anne, who, in 1698, paid a visit to this spot from Tunbridge Wells. The iron railing round St. Paul's Church yard, in London, was cast at this furnace, which presents, perhaps, the most magnificent balustrade in the universe; the height is five feet six inches, and there are at intervals, seven iron gates of beautiful workmanship, which, together with the railing, weigh upwards of 200 tons, the whole cost having amounted to the sum of £11,000 and upwards.

These woods are mostly oak and coppice, sometimes, though but rarely, intermixed with hazel interspersed with oak trees, which have been considerably lessened, in consequence of the great consumption of wood required by these furnaces.

Numerous little springs rise here, the waters of which are of a browner colour than is common to that element, leaving, in their passage, tinctures of rust. The iron ore is found in great abundance in most parts of these woods, but differing in colour, weight, and property. That which is not fit for common use, from being short and brittle when melted, is mingled, in certain quantities, with cinders, the refuse of the ore after the extraction of the metal. The mixture in question produces a temper and toughness which renders it fit for working, so that great quantities of cannon, for government and the merchant service, are cast at these furnaces, as well as the backs of stoves and bars, from the better sort of iron, after having been worked in the forges for that purpose. The above statement is made by Mr. Hasted, in whose time the furnaces were of great importance.

The village or town of Lamberhurst, as it is sometimes called, is situated about forty miles from London, on either side of the above-mentioned stream, over which is a bridge, composed of three arches, standing partly in Kent and partly in Sussex.

On the western side of the street, within this county, there was a large house, which, from its appearance, seems to have belonged to a gentleman, having been, for many generations, in the possession of the family of the Thomas's. One of that name, Alexander, resided here, and died possessed of it in 1657; in whose descendants it continued down to Richard Thomas, who, in 1740, sold it to Mr. Bridger, of Sussex; and he alienated it to Mr. John Foster, in which name it continued. There are two principal roads from London, one traverses Tun-

bridge, and the other runs from Maidstone, through Yalding, which join just above the village, when the route leads through it into Sussex. At a small distance westward of the spot where these roads unite, is the ancient mansion of the parsonage; and on the opposite side, the court lodge, with the church near it, on the rise of a hill.

About a mile westward, close to the southern side of the stream, within the county of Sussex, are the seat and ruins of Beyham, great part of which are in the parish of Fant; and on the other side, within this county, though more distant, the estate of Hoadley, within that part of the parish called *Linderidge quarter;* in the upper part of which, near the thirty-seventh milestone, on the Tunbridge road, is an estate, formerly called, from its ancient possessors, Dunk's, but afterwards *Old farm.* It was, for some subsequent generations, owned by a branch of the Hendley's, of Cranbrooke, when Thomas died possessed of it, in 1716, leaving several sons. Peter and Alexander lived at Goudhurst, and were clothiers there; Walter, an intermediate son, became, on his father's death, possessed of this estate, and afterwards sold it to one Pattenden, who alienated it to a Spence; and he disposed of it to Gibbs Crawford, of East Grinsted.

The portion of this parish, which lies within the county of Sussex, is separated from Kent and the parish of Goudhurst by a stream, called the Bewle, across which, over a bridge of the same name, the high road from Lamberhurst passes, towards Flimwell, Hawkhurst, and also to Rye, in Sussex. About half a mile below Bewle bridge, near the east bank of the stream, is the mansion of Scotney, situated in a deep valley, and so surrounded by woods, that it presents a most recluse appearance. It is a handsome stone edifice, seemingly no more than half the dimension originally intended by the builder. It was moated, and had, until the late Mr. Darell pulled them down, a strong stone gateway, with towers, &c., seemingly intended to guard its approach. The river, which here divides the two counties, once ran through the centre of the ground-plot, whereon the mansion stands; and about a mile below Scotney, it joins the Beyham stream, with which it flows on to Yalding, where it meets the main current of the Medway.

There was resident in this parish a family of the name of

Wimshurst, in old writings spelt Wilmhurst, formerly of considerable property, the whole of which was alienated from that race.

An annual fair is held in this parish, on old Lady-day,* for cattle, the profits of which belong to the owners of the parsonage; and another in the village, yearly, on the 21st of May.

THIS PARISH was anciently part of the possessions of the eminent family of the Crevequer's, and was a limb of the barony of Leeds, in this county. One part was held of them by the family of the Lenham's, one of whom, Nicholas de Lenham, obtained a charter of *free warren* for his lands here, in the reign of Henry III. They were succeeded by the Chidcroft's, who resided here for some generations, and bore for their arms the same coat as that of the family of the Colepeper's, viz. *a bend engrailed.* This was a frequent custom at that period, many families using the coat of their superior lord of whom they held in fee, or in whose service they were; neither was this family of Chidcroft the only one in this county that bore the arms of the Colepeper's, as the Halden's, of Halden, and a branch of the Malmain's, equally adopted them. There are numerous instances of the grants of the coat-armour from a lord to his inferior; and, among others, Humphrey earl of Stafford, in the reign of Henry VI., granted, to Robert Whitgrave, the bearing of the *chevron gules*, as is expressed in the grant. One of this family, Thomas de Chidcroft, died possessed of this estate in the 1st of Edward III. *The other part*, in which the manor was included, was held of the Crevequer's, as half a knight's fee, in the reign of King John, by Nicholas de Kenith, *nomine dotis*, who gave it to the abbot and convent of Robertsbridge, in Sussex.

Hamo de Crevequer, grandson of Robert, confirmed this gift of the manor of Lamberhurst, for which the abbot had paid thirty-five marks of silver of the goods of his church. Soon after the abbot came into the possession of this manor, there arose great disputes between him and the archbishop, concerning the same, which were finally settled in 1266, in the reign of Henry III.

In the 21st of Edward I., upon a *quo warranto*, the abbot and convent claimed *view of frankpledge*, and other liberties for their manor, against the king, who laid claim to the property. But the abbot producing the king's charter, his rights were

allowed before J. de Berewicke and others, justices itinerant; and, in the 8th of Edward II., the archbishop had a grant for a market and fair to be held in this parish.

In this situation the manor continued till the suppression of the abbey of Robertsbridge, in the reign of Henry VIII., when the monastery and manor devolved to the king, and were confirmed to him and his heirs by the general words of the Act, passed in the 31st of that reign.

Subsequent to the above period, the king, by several indentures and letters patent, granted this manor and abbey, with the rest of its possessions, to Sir William Sydney and Anne his wife, and their heirs male, to hold *in capite* by knight's service. In consideration thereof, and a sum of money paid upon a new agreement, the above monarch, in his 33d year, sold to Sir William Sydney and his heirs, the manor of Lamberhurst, together with all lands and possessions belonging to the monastery, in Lamberhurst and elsewhere, the site of the late abbey, and all appurtenances thereunto belonging, to hold by the suit of one whole knight's fee, and the annual rental of £26 12 4. His grandson, Sir Robert, who was created earl of Leicester, obtained new letters patent of this manor, under James I., to hold the same of the king as of his manor of East Greenwich, in *free socage tenure*, by fealty only, in lieu of all other rents and services, and he then alienated it to John Porter, esq., who rebuilt the court lodge, where he afterwards resided. He was son of Richard Porter, of Begeham, in this parish, descended from William Porter, of Markham, in Nottinghamshire. John, the eldest son, succeeded his father at Markham, and was ancestor of the branch settled at Belton, in Lincolnshire, Stephen Porter, of those of Begeham and Lamberhurst, one of whom, John, was purchaser of this manor, and Robert Porter was dean of Lincoln; they bore for their arms *Sable, three bells argent, a canton ermine*. John Porter, esq. obtained a confirmation of *free warren*, made to Nicholas de Lenham, within all the demesne lands of this manor, not being within the bounds of the king's forests. His two grandsons, John and Richard, dying, his daughter, Elizabeth, married Sir John Hanby, of Lincolnshire, who became their heir, and dying without issue male, his daughter Elizabeth, his heir, carried this property in marriage to John Chaplin, esq. of the same county. His grandson, John,

left three daughters his coheirs; of whom, Elizabeth, married to Edward Ayscough, esq., entitled her husband to the possession thereof, and joining with him, alienated the estate to William Morland, esq., who resided at the court lodge; he was descended from ancestors seated at Morland, in Westmoreland. He married Ellen, daughter of Sir Thomas Johnson, of Liverpool, by whom he had Thomas Johnson, esq., of the court lodge, which residence he much improved, and dying in 1784, was conveyed hither and buried in this church. By Anne, daughter and coheir of William Matson, esq., of Lancashire, he left several children; of whom, the eldest son, William Alexander Morland, esq., succeeded him in this estate.

A court-leet and court-baron is held for this manor.

Hodleigh is a reputed manor, situated at the western part of this parish, that anciently belonged to the college of St. Peter, at Lingfield, in Surrey, which institution seems to have been suppressed in the reign of Henry VIII. That monarch, in his 38th year, granted this manor, among other premises belonging to the college, to Thomas Cawarden, or Cardan, to hold *in capite* by knight's service; one of whose descendants, in the reign of Elizabeth, passed it by sale to Edward Filmer, esq. of East Sutton, afterwards knighted by that queen, who died possessed of the same in 1797.

In that part of this parish which lies in the county of Sussex, there are *two capital places*, which, though not strictly within the description of this county, must not be omitted. The first is Begeham, usually called *Bayham abbey*, situated about three quarters of a mile distant, southwestward, from Hodleigh, and close on the opposite side of the stream, which separates the two counties. It was founded at a place called Beaulieu, about the year 1200, by Robert, nephew of Michael de Turnham, for monks of the *Præmonstratensian* order, some of whom he removed from Brockley, in Deptford, hither, for that purpose.

These religious had been originally settled at Ottham, in Sussex, by Ralph de Dene, but finding that place inconvenient for the purpose, they began an establishment at Brockley, where they remained but a short time, and removed hither, with the consent of Ella de Sackville, daughter of their founder Ralph de Dene, and Robert de Turnham, above mentioned, who had, for the above purpose, granted to these canons, with the assent

of Richard earl of Clave, his lord, all his lands at Begeham, with their appurtenances, in pure and perpetual alms, free from all service and secular exaction, to build an abbey here, in honour of St. Mary.

Pope Gregory IX., A.D. 1266, exempted them *de decimis novalium*, as well as from the mills they had newly built, and the pay of all their lands. In the 15th of Edward I. the temporalities of the abbot, in Canterbury diocese, amounted to £21 6 8 per annum; in which year the abbot being summoned, on a *quo warranto*, to shew cause why he claimed pleas of the crown, and *free warren*, a market, fair, gallows, and waif in Begeham, &c., answered that he had not, nor did he claim any of those privileges, but that he had view of frankpledge, and by reason of that, assize of bread and ale; the jury, in consequence, found for the abbot, as himself and his predecessors had always used the same time out of mind.

King Edward III., in his second year, granted to the abbot and convent *free warren* in their demesne lands in the parish of Lamberhurst, in Kent, as well as in Begeham, in Sussex, among others.

This abbey continued in nearly the same state till the reign of Henry VIII., when Cardinal Wolsey, being desirous of founding two colleges, one at Ipswich, and the other at Oxford, obtained, in 1524, the pope's bull for suppressing, with the king's leave, as many small monasteries as were necessary to raise a revenue, not exceeding 3000 ducats per annum; when this monastery, with seventeen other minor establishments in different counties was dissolved, at which time it appeared that the spiritualities of this abbey were valued at £27 6 8, the temporalities at £125 2 8½, and the whole at £152 9 4½ per annum.

Richard Bexley was the last abbot, at which period there were ten monks in this institution.

From their descent from the founder of this abbey, as also from their benefactions to the same, the members of the Sackvile family were equally reputed its founders; two of that line are said to lie buried in the church of this abbey; Sir Thomas, son of Sir Andrew Sackvile, and Richard Sackvile, esq., who died A.D. 1524. There is a register of this abbey in the Cottonian library, in the British Museum, marked Otho, A. 11.

After the suppression of this abbey, the king granted the

several dissolved monasteries of Begeham, Lesnes, Tunbridge, and Calcote, with all their lands, manors, and possessions, to Cardinal Wolsey, for the endowment of his colleges above mentioned; which letters were again confirmed by other documents the following year. However, four years afterwards, upon the Cardinal's disgrace, all the estates of the colleges which had not been firmly settled thereon, were forfeited to the king, in whose hands the manor of Begeham, together with the site of the abbey, seem to have remained, till Queen Elizabeth made a grant of the same to Anthony Brown viscount Montague, who, though a strict Catholic, was held in high esteem by that princess, being a man of great loyalty, and attached to his religion from principle, wholly divested from any factious spirit. He died in 1593, and was succeed by his eldest son, Anthony viscount Montague, who, not long after, alienated this manor and estate to Benedict Barnham, alderman of London, who died in 1598, leaving four daughters his coheirs. Alice, the second, inherited this manor and the site of the abbey of Begeham, and after the death of her first husband, Sir Francis Bacon, lord Verulam, viscount St. Alban's, and lord chancellor of England, by whom she had no issue, she remarried Walter Doble, esq., of the county of Sussex, who, in her right, possessed this estate. In that family it remained at the restoration of Charles II., A.D. 1660, when it passed to the name of Brown, where it continued till the time of Queen Anne, when an Act passed to enable Ambrose Brown, esq., to sell this manor, which was conveyed to John Pratt, esq. of Wilderness, sergeant at law, and afterwards chief justice of the King's Bench. On his death, in 1725, John Pratt, esq. of Wilderness, his eldest son, succeeded him in this manor, of which he died possessed in 1770, as did his son, of Wilderness, but afterwards of Sevenoak, where he also died in 1797, and, by will, gave this estate to his half brother, Thomas Pratt, esq., elder brother of Charles earl Camden; and he subsequently possessed this manor, with the site of the abbey and lands belonging thereto.

Considerable vestiges of the ruins of this edifice are yet standing, and within the walls of the church, over which the roof remained till lord chief justice Pratt caused the same to be taken down, for the use of the materials, there are several flat gravestones, upon one of which is a crosier; there are also three tombs,

or coffins of stone, one of which is decorated with the sculpture of *a cross pomel, pierced.* The inside of the church is laid out in pleasure-ground, decorated with flowers and gravelled walks, for the use of the adjoining seat, erected many years back by the late proprietor, in the Gothic style, where he frequently used to reside.

There are many views extant of the ruins of this abbey, among which is that published by Buck in 1737, and another by Captain Grose, in his Antiquities of England and Wales, in 1760.

Scotney is the other manor within this parish, in the county of Sussex also. The mansion stands close on the western side of the stream, called *the Bewle,* reputed to divide the counties. It was so named from a family which had possession of this estate in very early times, the members whereof also held another seat of the same name, at Lyd. One of the above line, Walter de Scoteni, held it in the reign of Henry III., having been a person of no small account, as he held fourteen knights' fees and a half, of Alice countess of Eu, in Sussex. However, having been found guilty of poisoning Richard earl of Gloucester, and his brother, William de Clare, he was drawn through Winchester to the gallows, and there hanged. Notwithstanding this, the estate seems to have continued in the same name and family till the middle of the reign of Edward III., when it passed to the Ashburnham's, of Ashburnham, in Sussex; one of whom, Roger, was a conservator of the peace in the 1st of Richard II., and resided at the mansion, which was then castellated. His successor alienated the property in the beginning of the reign of Henry V., to Henry Chichele, archbishop of Canterbury, who appears at times to have resided here, one of his mandates being dated from Scoteneye, in 1418. The archbishop settled this manor on Florence, his niece, widow of Sir William Pecke, one of the daughters of William Chichele, his youngest brother, on her marriage with John Darell, esq., third son of William Darell, of Sesay, in Yorkshire. He died in 1478, and was succeeded in this estate by his only son by the said Florence, namely, Thomas Darell, esq., of Scotney; whose only son Henry, and grandson Thomas, were both likewise of Scotney, the latter having been twice married. Thomas, his eldest son, succeeded him; and Stephen, his second, was ancestor of the Darell's, of Pagcham, Fullsmere, Hampden, and Middlesex; while his third

son was of Spelmonden, who left two surviving daughters his coheirs.

In the descendants of Thomas Darell, the eldest son, who succeeded his father at Scotney, and whose lands were *disgavelled* by the Acts of the 2d and 3d of Edward VI., this estate continued down to his great grandson, Arthur Darell, esq., of Scotney, who died possessed of the property in 1720, unmarried. This estate then devolved, by an old family settlement, to the second brother of the branch of this family, settled at Calehill, in this county, and was accordingly claimed by George, the second son of John Darell, esq., of Calehill, by Olivia, his wife, daughter of Viscount Strangford.

He took possession of the property, though not without some litigation, as suits were instituted by the three sisters, and heirs at law of Arthur above mentioned, in which, however, he ultimately prevailed, and afterwards resided here. He was succeeded by his eldest son and heir, John Darell, esq., a resident at Scotney, who, in 1774, conveyed this manor and seat, with the manor of Chingley, and other lands adjoining, in the parish of Goudhurst, to Mr. John Richards, of Robertsbridge. The latter, in 1779, again passed away these manors, and the mansion of Scotney, with the adjoining farm, called Little Scotney, to Edward Hussey, esq., of Burwash, in Sussex, and afterwards of Ashford, in this county.

Edward Hussey, the purchaser of these estates, married Elizabeth Sarah, only daughter of Robert Bridge, esq., of Bocking, in Essex, by whom he had several children. He also resided at Scotney, and subsequently owned these manors.

LAMBERHURST is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, stands on a hill, at a short distance from the court lodge, having a spire steeple. In the porch lies one Lindridge, born A.D. 1566, who lived in a house adjacent, and made a handsome stone footway at this spot, called *Lindridge causeway*.

Robert de Crevequer, founder of the abbey of Leeds, about the year 1137, gave to the canons there, *in free and perpetual alms*, all the churches on his estates, with the advowsons of the same, among which was this of Lamberhurst, with two acres of land in the parish.

Lambert de Scotene confirmed to the church of Leeds whatsoever his ancestors had granted, viz. all the ecclesiastical dues of his tenants, with the lands of Curthope, and the oblations and legacies of the vassals of his lordship.

Archbishop Theobald confirmed this church to the priory, together with all the tithes, both great and small, of Courthope and Ewehurst, as did also Archbishop Hubert, by his letters of *inspeximus*. John, bishop of Rochester, at the time of the gift of this church to the priory of Leeds, appropriated the same to that institution; notwithstanding which, the canons do not seem to have gained possession of it till about ten years afterwards. About that period, by the mandate of Richard, archbishop of Canterbury, an inquisition was taken, whereby it was found that the archbishop's tenants, inhabiting the districts of Curthope and Ewehurst, received all ecclesiastical rights in the church of Lamberhurst, and had paid their tithes, time out of memory, to that church, and that their ancestors lay buried there; which was attested by Walter, bishop of Rochester, and confirmed by the archbishop.

The vicarage of this church does not seem to have been endowed till the time of bishop John Lowe, about the year 1448, in whose register the particulars of this endowment may be seen.

After this the appropriation, as well as the advowson, of this church, continued part of the possessions of the priory till the dissolution in the reign of Henry VIII., when, being surrendered to that prince, he settled the advowson of the vicarage on his newly erected dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom they still continue vested.

In 1719 the lessee of this parsonage was William Dewe, esq., who resided there. He was the son of William Dewe, gent., one of the Six Clerks in the prerogative-office in London, and bore for his arms, *Gules, a chevron argent, between nine bezants.* The interest at length rested in his grandson, Butler Dewe, esq., who, dying in 1762, without issue, the property devolved to his sisters, Elizabeth Wilson, widow, Amphillis Whitfield, widow, and Mary Ann and Catherine Dewe, who were subsequently the lessees of this parsonage.

The advowson of the vicarage was reserved for the use of the dean and chapter, who has the right of presentation to the same.

This vicarage was valued in the king's books at £12 10 5, the annual tenths being £1 5 0½.

In 1447, it appeared on the presentation of William Blackborne to this vicarage, that it was endowed, in ancient times, with all tithes excepting those of sheaves and grain; that it was by estimation, one year with another, of the annual value of £10, and that the vicar had not any written composition, but claimed his endowment by ancient custom.

In 1821 there were sixty-four dwellings in the parish of Lamberhurst; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 286, females 252, making a total of 538 souls.

Horsemonden is the next parish northward from Lamberhurst, a small portion being within the borough of Rugmerhill, which is situated at the western side, adjoining that of Brenchley, and is within the ancient demesne of the manor of Aylesford, and consequently exempt from the jurisdiction of this hundred.

A small part of this parish is said to be within the hundred of Larkfield.

The parish of Horsemonden is situated much the same as that of Lamberhurst, last described, presenting a surface of continued hill and dale. It is bounded towards the north-east and south by different streams of the river Medway, which flow from hence, and join the main river at Yalding. This district is also watered by two other smaller rivulets, and several lesser springs interspersed over it, all of which join the larger stream on the southern side of the parish. It is four miles in length from north to south, its breadth being but small, in some places scarcely one mile, and in its broadest part not more than two miles. The high road from Maidstone, through Yalding, to Lamberhurst and Sussex, runs through the whole length of the parish; and that from Watringbury, over Brandt bridge, through Brenchley, towards Goudhurst, crosses this parish and the other road, at a small green, called Horsemonden heath, which is built round with houses, and forms all that constitutes a village in this parish, the remainder of the houses being dispersed singly over different parts of the same. The soil near the high road is in general a sand, intermixed with the rock, or sandstone, the

rest a deep stiff clay, extremely miry in wet weather. It is much interspersed with coppice woods of oak, especially on the west and north sides, where the soil abounds with iron ore. The whole is covered with fine spreading oak trees, which grow to a large size, and become sometimes nearly equal in value to the freehold of the estate.

The church, with the parsonage at about a quarter of a mile distant, stands very near the south-east boundary of the parish. In the upper part, contiguous to the river, is a seat called Baynden, formerly belonging to Sir Charles Booth, of Stede hill, deceased. A fair is held here on St. Swithin's day, for cattle and pedlary.

The Manor of *Horsemonden* was part of the ancient possessions of the archbishopric of Canterbury, he holding it *in capite* as one knight's fee, of whom it was again held by the noble family of Clare, earls of Gloucester and Hertford.

It appears by the inquisition returned into the exchequer, in the 13th and 14th of the reign of King John, of the knight's fees and other services held *in capite*, that this place was then in the possession of the family of Albrincis, one of whom, William de Albrincis, of Averanches, dying, Maud, his sister, at length became her husband's heir, and entitled Hamo de Crevequer to the possession of the same. He died in the 47th of the reign of Henry III., before which period, however, this manor seems to have passed in marriage with one of his daughters, Eleve, to Bertram de Criol.

In the 42d of Henry III. there was a composition entered into between Archbishop Boniface and Richard de Clare, earl of Gloucester, in relation to the customs and services which the archbishop claimed on account of the lands held by the earl of him in Tunbridge, Horsemonden, and other places in this county, by which it was agreed that the earl should do homage and the service of one knight's fee for the manor of Horsemonden, and suit at the court of the archbishop, and his successors, at Canterbury.

In the 8th of King Edward II., this manor constituted part of the possessions of the family of Rokesle, the heirs of Roger, of that name, then holding it of the honour of Clare, one of whom was Sir Richard de Rokesle, who died without issue male, leaving by his wife Joan, sister and heir of John de Criol, two daughters

his coheirs, of whom Agnes, the eldest, married Thomas de Poynings; and Joan, the youngest, first, Hugh de Pateshull, and secondly, Sir William le Baud, each of whom, in her right, became possessed of this manor, the latter dying owner of the property in the 4th of Edward III. His widow, in the 20th year of that reign, paid aid for it, being then held of the earl of Gloucester.

After the above period, although their son, Sir William Baud, appears to have had some interest in this estate, at his death, in the 50th year of that reign, yet upon her demise, the manor itself went to her nephew Michael, son of Thomas de Poynings, by Joan de Rokesle, her sister. In his descendants it continued down to his grandson Robert, who died in the 25th of King Henry VI., leaving Alianone, wife of Sir Henry Percy, lord Percy, eldest son of Henry earl of Northumberland, daughter of Richard de Poynings, his eldest son, who died during his father's life, his next heir, upon which the Lord Percy, in her right, became entitled to this manor. From him it continued down to Henry earl of Northumberland, who died without issue in the 29th of Henry VIII., the year previous to which, he, by deed, granted to the king all his manors, castles, and estates, although, twelve months before, an Act had passed for assuming to the king all his lands and possessions, in case of the failure of heirs of his body.

This manor thus devolving to the crown, did not long continue there, as the king, in his 36th year, granted it to Stephen Darell, esq., and Agnes, his wife, to hold *in capite*. He died in the 2d of Elizabeth, after which his two sons, Henry and George, successively possessed it; the latter of whom, in the 10th of that reign, alienated this manor to Richard Payne, who, in the 17th of Queen Elizabeth, levied a fine of the same, and some time afterwards alienated it to William Beswicke, esq. of Spelmonden, in this parish. He was sheriff in 1616, and the son of William Beswicke, or Berwicke, alderman and lord mayor of London. His son, Arthur Beswicke, was of Spelmonden, and married the daughter of Lawrence Washington, esq., of Maidstone, by whom he left an only daughter Mary, his heir, who, during her life, settled this manor on Mr. Haughton, descended from those of Haughton tower, in Lancashire. He left two daughters his coheirs, the eldest of whom, Anne, carried this property in mar-

riage to James Marriott, esq., of Hampton, in Middlesex. His son, of the same name, died in 1741, and gave the estate by will to his sister Anne, for life, and then to his second cousin, Hugh Marriott, esq., who died in 1753. He left, by Lydia his wife, widow of Doctor Hutton, two sons, James and Thomas, the latter of whom was slain at the siege of Madras, in 1765, and one daughter, Anne; James, the eldest son, being in holy orders, and LL.D., who married in 1767 Miss Bosworth, and afterwards possessed this estate.

There is no court held for this manor.

SPELMONDEN is an ancient seat at the southern boundary of this parish, which was once possessed by a family bearing that name. John de Spelmonden, one of the proprietors, is frequently mentioned in the deeds and evidences belonging to this estate; on their becoming extinct, this seat constituted part of the possessions of the eminent family of the Poynings, one of whom, Michael, son of Thomas de Poynings, by Joan de Rokesle, possessed it at his death in the 42d of Edward III.

He left two sons, Thomas, who died, and Richard, who became his brother's heir, and departed this life, possessing the estate, in the 11th of Richard II. He was succeeded herein by Robert de Poynings, his only son, at whose death, in the 25th of Henry VI., Robert, his younger son, seems to have inherited Spelmonden, and died in the 9th of Edward IV. His son and heir, Sir Edward Poynings, in the 14th of that reign, alienated the property to John Sampson, whose son Christopher, in the 37th of Henry VIII., passed it away by sale to Stephen Darell, esq., who afterwards resided here. His son George, in the 10th of Queen Elizabeth, conveyed it to Richard Payne, of Twyford, in Middlesex, who, in the 28th year of the same princess, sold this estate to William Nutbrown, and he alienated it, the next year, to George Cure, esq., of Surrey, by whom it was immediately sold to Arthur Langworth, esq.; by the latter again, it passed as quickly by sale to William Beswicke, esq., who resided here, and was sheriff in 1616. Since the last-mentioned period, this seat has in like manner as the manor of Horsemonden, passed down to the Rev. Dr. Marriott, who possessed the same.

LEWIS HEATH is a manor situated in the centre of this parish, and was anciently part of the possessions of the family of Grove-

hurst, or Grotherst, one of whom, John de Grotherst, was rector of this church, as we are informed by his epitaph still remaining therein. He gave this manor of Leveshothe to the abbot and convent of Begeham, for the finding one perpetual chaplain to celebrate the service, in the church of Horsemonden and chapel of Leveshothe; when it continued part of the possessions of that abbey, till the dissolution under Henry VIII. That prince immediately granted it, with all its possessions, to Cardinal Wolsey, for the better endowment of his college, in Oxford; but, upon that prelate's disgrace, about four years afterwards, all the estates of that institution, which for want of time had not been firmly settled thereon, devolved to the king, where they remained till Queen Elizabeth, in the beginning of her reign, granted this property to Anthony Brown, viscount Montague, who died possessed of the same in 1593. He was succeeded by his eldest son and heir, who, not long after, alienated the property to William Beswicke, esq., of Spelmonden, in this parish, since which it passed in like manner as that seat, and the residue of his estates in this parish, to the Rev. Dr. Marriott, who possessed the same.

Sprivers is a manor on the western side of this parish, which had anciently owners of that surname, one of whom, Robert, died possessed of it in 1447, and by will devised it to his son of the same name. Upon the extinction of that family, the Vane's became proprietors of this estate, from whom it passed into the name of Bathurst.

Robert Bathurst possessed the manor, and resided here in the reign of Elizabeth, being second son of Lawrence Bathurst, of Staplehurst, whose eldest son, Edward, was ancestor of the Bathurst's, of Frank, in this county. Robert Bathurst, above mentioned, was ancestor, by his first wife, to those of Letchlade, in Gloucestershire, and of Finchcocks and Wilmington, in this county; and, by his second wife, of those of Richmond, in Yorkshire. Soon after the above period it was alienated to the Malbert's, and thence again, after a short intermission, to the Morgan's, in which name it remained till sold to one Holman, whose descendant, Anne, in 1704, passed it away by sale to Mr. Courthope. He bore for his arms, *Or, a fess azure, between three estoils sable.*

Some account of this family has already been given under the head of Brenchley; that branch of the same from which

the Courthope's, of Danny, in Sussex, and those of Horsemonden, were descended, was seated at Goddard's green, in Cranbrooke, in the reign of Henry VIII.; one of whom, Alexander, of Cranbrooke, possessed lands there, in Biddenden, and Maidstone, as appears by records in the prerogative-office of Canterbury, as early as 1525.

Mr. Courthope, the purchaser of this estate, left a son, Alexander, and five daughters, who all died unmarried, except Barbara, and she espoused Mr. Cole, of Marden, and died in 1783, by whom she had two surviving sons. Alexander, the son of the above Mr. Courthope, rebuilt the mansion-house of Sprivers, at some distance from the ancient edifice, and resided there with true old English hospitality, and a reputation for the highest integrity; he died unmarried, in 1779, and, by will, gave this manor, with the estate belonging to the same, to his nephew, John Cole, esq.

A court-baron is regularly held for this manor.

Grovehurst is an estate lying on the eastern side of this parish, and was, in very early times, part of the possessions of a family which thence derived its surname. William died possessed of the estate, with Puleyns, in this parish, (afterwards the property of the Rev. Richard Bathurst, late of Finchcocks, in Goudhurst,) in the 7th of Edward III. His descendant, Richard, left three daughters his coheirs, one of whom, Anne, carried this manor in marriage, in the reign of Richard II., to Richard Hextall, of Hextall's court, in East Peckham. His eldest son, William, in the reign of Henry VI., increased his property in this parish, by the purchase of four estates, called Hothe, Smeeths, Capells, and Augustpitts, and left Margaret his sole daughter and heir, who carried them in marriage to William Whetenhall, whose descendant of the same name was sheriff in the reign of Henry VIII., and in the 31st year of the same monarch, procured the disgavelment of his lands.

His descendant, Henry Whetenhall, in the reign of James I., passed away the manors of Grovehurst, Hoathe, Smeethe, and Capell, together with a seat in this parish, called Broadford, near the bridge of that name, to Francis Austen, fifth son of Mr. John Austen, of this parish, who dying in 1620, was buried in this church, where his arms remain, viz., *Or on a chevron sable, three plates, between three lions' paws, erect and erased sable.*

He afterwards resided at Grovehurst, where he died in 1687, and was buried here, leaving a son John, who was also of Grovehurst, where he departed this life in 1705. His son John resided at Broadford, and died the year before him, leaving six sons, and one daughter, of whom, John, the eldest, became heir to his grandfather's estates in this parish; and Francis, the second son, was father of Francis Motley Austen, esq. of Sevenoak, in this county.

John Austen, esq., the eldest son, married Mary, daughter of Stephen Stringer, esq., of Goudhurst, by whom he had John Broadford, who married Joanna Weekes, of Sevenoak, by whom he had one daughter, Mary, who possessed these manors and estates.

There is a court-baron held for the manors of Grovehurst, Hoathe, and Smeethe.

BADMONDEN is a reputed manor in this parish, wherein there was formerly a cell, but not conventual, belonging to the priory of Beaulieau, in Normandy; in which situation it remained till the general suppression of alien priories throughout England, in the 2d year of Henry V., A.D. 1414. That monarch, the year ensuing, gave it to the priory of St. Andrew, Rochester, where it continued till the dissolution of that society, in 1540; at which period, Henry VIII. settled it on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom it has continued.

The manors of East Farleigh and East Peckham claim over this part of Horsemonden; the freeholders in Badmonden holding their lands of the same in *free socage* tenure.

BRAMBLES is a small manor in this parish, formerly the property of Mr. John Barnes, and afterwards belonged to Mr. Usherwood.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

The manor of Gillingham claims over the tithing or hamlet of Baveden, in this parish, being one of the four denns in the Weald, holden of that manor, the freeholders possessing their land of the same in *free socage* tenure.

HORSEMONDEN is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to St. Margaret, is a handsome building, containing memorials of the Groshurst's, the Browne's, the Austen's, the Courthope's, and the Campion's. In the chancel

on the south side, is a handsome tomb, without any inscription; and over the west door, are the arms of the Poyning's and the Fitzpaine's, one of the former having probably been the builder, or a great benefactor towards the erection of this structure.

It was valued in the king's books at £26 3 9, the yearly tenths being £2 12 4½.

The patronage of this church was, from the earliest time, an appendage to the manor of Horsemonden, and consequently had the same proprietors. There are two small manors annexed thereto, called HASELLETS, otherwise RADMONDEN, and COSSINGTON, otherwise HEYDEN, for which courts-baron are held. These, with the rectory, constituted part of the possessions of the Rev. Dr. Marriott, lord of the manor of Horsemonden.

Robert de Grosshurst, of Horsemonden, in 1338, founded a *perpetual chantry* in this church, in the chapel of the Virgin Mary, to the praise of God, and for the souls of himself and his wife. He also ordained that, after the first vacancy, the parishioners should nominate the priest of the same, to be presented to the bishop of Rochester, for his induction into the said chantry; and that the priests should receive, yearly, for their maintenance, from the abbot and convent of Boxley, six marks sterling, annual rental, which he had purchased for the endowment thereof.

Sir Edward Poynings gave twenty-four acres of land towards the maintenance of lights in this church; whence they acquired their present name of Torchfield.

In 1701, this church was repaired, by the collection of a brief made for that purpose.

In 1821, there were 147 dwellings in the parish of Horsemonden; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 586, females 638, making a total of 1224 souls.

THE HUNDRED OF BARKLEY

LIES the next northeastward from that of Cranbrooke, and, in the reign of Edward III., was spelt *Berdekely*. This hundred, which is within the lower division of the Lath of Scray, *contains within its bounds the greater part of the parish of Biddenden, with the church, and part of the parishes of Benenden, Cranbrooke, Frittenden, Halden, Hedcorne, and Smarden; the churches of which are in other hundreds. One constable has jurisdiction over this district.*

BIDDENDEN is the next parish eastward from *Frittenden*, that portion which is in the boroughs of *Ibornden*, *Wosenden*, *Hevenden*, *Omenden*, *Stephurst*, *and Wachenden*, is in the hundred of Barkley; and the residue, in the borough of the *outbounds of Smithsditch*, is in the hundred of *Cranbrooke*.

This parish is much the same, as to the appearance of the country, as those contiguous, previously described, and is very populous. There are three principal hamlets dispersed in different parts of the parish, called Wasenden green, Strand Quarter, and Standen. A fair is held here, on the 8th of November, for cattle; and another, on Old Lady-day.

BIDDENDEN PLACE, or, as it was formerly called, the *Place house*, stands at the south end of the town, having been once the residence of an ancient family which thence derived its surname. It then passed to the Mayney's, Sir John, of that name, having resided here in the reign of Edward III.; when, after passing through many descendants, it became the property of Sir Edward Henden, whose last heir, in the reign of George I., dissipated his estates, and pulled down the greater part of this seat, leaving the remains, consisting of some rooms, and a very few acres of land, to his son, William, who sold it to the trustees of Sir Horace Mann, bart.

Nearly opposite the Place house, is a mansion that once be-

longed to the Taylor's; from whom it passed to Mr. Jenkin Hague, whose nephew afterwards owned the same.

North of the town, is another dwelling called BIDDENDEN HOUSE, formerly belonging to the Pattenson's, who bore for their arms, *Argent on a fess, sable three fleurs de lis or;* in which name it continued down to Mr. Josias Pattenson, who devised it to his eldest son, of the same name. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Felix Kadwell, esq., of Rolvenden, by whom he had Kadwell Pattenson, esq. of the Gate-house, in Rolvenden; and at his death, his heirs alienated it to Mr. Stephen Elmstone, the late owner.

THE FAMILY OF POMFRET was, for several generations, possessed of a good estate in this parish. The mansion in which they resided is a large old-fashioned house, near the town. It formerly belonged to Edmund Steed, gent., who died in 1664, and afterwards to Vincent Quilter; by whose daughter and heir it went in marriage to the Pomfret's, in one of whose descendants it continued. Many of that race lie buried in the south part of the churchyard, where their tombs remain, bearing the arms, being *quarterly argent and gules, a bend sable;* a branch of the family of Seyliard, which intermarried with the Boddenham's, likewise resided here during the last century, having borne for their arms, *Gules, a chief ermine.*

ALLARDS is an estate in this parish, which had an ancient seat, and was, for many generations, the mansion of a family of the same name; one of whom, Gervas Allard, was admiral of the Western seas, in the 34th year of the reign of Edward I.; and in his descendants it continued till that of Charles I., when Francis Allard, gent. of this place, leaving an only daughter, Elizabeth, she carried it in marriage to Terry Aldersey, gent. of Swanton court, in Bridgar, who died possessed of it in 1678. He then bequeathed this estate to his second son, Mr. Henry Aldersey, of Maidstone, whose descendant sold it to Thomas Tong, surgeon, of Milton; from whom it passed by sale to Mr. John Hooker, gent. of Brenchley, and his descendant, John, esq. of Broadoak, in that parish, afterwards possessed the same.

CASTWISELL is an estate situated at the boundary of this parish, next to Cranbrooke, having been once accounted a manor. It had, in early times, owners of the same name, as appears by

some ancient deeds without date; however, previous to the reign of Edward IV., the family of the Moiles's possessed it, as, in the 6th of that reign, Sir Walter Moile, of Eastwell, granted to Reginald and William Sands all those lands, tenements, rents, and services, which Simon Gidenden lately held of him, as of his manor of Castwisell. His grandson, Thomas, afterwards knighted in the reign of Henry VIII., conveyed it to Stephen Rogers, gent., whose descendant, Mr. Jonathan Rogers, owned it at the restoration of Charles II. At length, after it had continued for some time in his descendants, it became the property of Sir Henry Fernor, bart., who died possessed of the same in 1734, without legitimate issue; subsequent to which it remained vested in the trustees of his will, for the uses mentioned therein.

Lessenden is an estate about a mile and a half northward from the church, formerly the residence of a family of the name of Boddenden, or Boddenham, one of whom, William, died possessed of it in 1579, leaving, by his first wife, a son, William, who was afterwards knighted. He bore for his arms, *Azure, a fess between three chess rooks, or;* and lies buried in the chancel of this church. His sister, Jane, having married Bernard Randolph, clothier, of this parish, he, by that alliance, became afterwards possessed of this estate, of which he died owner, in 1628, and was buried, by his wife, in the chancel of this church. His eldest son, William, was of Burton, in Kennington, where his posterity long remained; John, the third son, went to Virginia, where his descendants continued to flourish; and Edmund, the fifth, travelled into Italy, and took the degree of M.D. at Padua. On his return, he was incorporated into the University of Oxford, in 1628, and afterwards practised physic at Canterbury, and dying in 1649, was buried in St. George's church, leaving a numerous issue, one of whom was Barnard, author of the Account of the Archipelago. Herbert, the fourth son, succeeded him in this estate, whose grandson, Herbert Randolph, esq., was recorder of the city of Canterbury, and died possessed of Lessenden, in 1724, leaving a numerous issue by his two wives. By the first, he left only two surviving children, Herbert, and Mary, who married Christopher Packe, M.D. By his second wife, he had eight children; Thomas, D.D. late president of Corpus Christi college, Oxford; George,

M.D. of Bristol; Francis, D.D. principal of Alban hall, Oxford; and Charles, bred to the law; and four daughters. They bear for arms, *Gules on a cross, argent, five mullets pierced, sable.*

Herbert Randolph, clerk, the only son by his first wife, succeeded him here, who died in 1755, leaving issue, one son, Herbert, and a daughter, Mary. Herbert was of Wiltshire, and in holy orders, and ultimately possessed this manor.

ON THE NORTH SIDE of the parish is a seat, called IBORNDEN HOUSE, which, with the greater part of the denne wherein it is situated, has been, from the beginning of the last century, the estate and residence of the family of the Pattenson's. Roger of that name, clothier, came out of Yorkshire, and purchased this estate, with several others in the neighbourhood, and built three houses in Biddenden. He died about 1638, when his descendant, Josias, was of Biddenden house, and William inherited Ibornden, in which he was succeeded by his only son, William, afterwards proprietor of the same.

The denne of Ibornden, or Iberden, as it is sometimes spelt, is held of the manor of Ashford. It lies in the western part of this parish, a little more than a mile north-west from the church.

ABOUT HALF A MILE northward from the village, is THE BOROUGH OF STANDEN, containing *a hamlet of houses,* on the high road; this was formerly an estate of considerable note, and belonged to Mrs. Knight, widow of Thomas Knight, esq., of Godmersham, for her life, with remainder to Edward Austen, esq., of Godmersham park.

RIVER HALL is a seat in the south-east part of this parish, near Stroud Quarter, which has been, for upwards of a century, in the possession of the Beale's, formerly clothiers here. Richard Beale, of Biddenden, resided here in the reign of Charles II., and his grandson, Richard, afterwards owned the property, and resided there. They bore for their arms, *sable, on a chevron or, between three griffins' heads erased, argent, as many estoiles, gules.*

WHITFIELD HOUSE is near the above, having derived its name from the owners thereof. Thomas, second son of Clement Whitfield, of Tenterden, possessed it in the reign of James I., and was succeeded by his son, John, who was of Biddenden. He died in 1695, and in his descendants it continued until sold

to Mr. Jenkin Hague, whose nephew, of the same name, afterwards possessed this mansion.

At the extremity of the parish, among the woods, lies the manor of Wachenden, in the borough of its own name, which belonged to the abbot and convent of Battle, probably, at its foundation, in the reign of the Conqueror; at least, that fraternity owned it in the reign of Edward II., as appears by the patent rolls of the 7th year of that reign; and in the church chest there is an ancient deed, dated anno 8th of King Henry IV., wherein the abbot and convent acknowledge to have received £4 of Thomas Brickenden, for his ferme of their manor of Wachendenne. This continued part of their revenues at the period of the dissolution, in the 30th of Henry VIII., when devolving to the crown, the king granted it to Sir John Baker, of Sissinghurst, one of whose descendants sold it to the Henden's. From that name it passed to Sir John Norris, of Hemsted; at whose death, in 1767, it went to his son, John, whose trustees alienated it to Thomas Hallet Hodges, esq., of Hemsted, in Benenden, who owned this estate.

A court-leet is held for this manor.

William, or John Mayne, esq., of this parish, by a deed of feoffment, in 1522, founded a free Latin grammar school in this parish, and endowed it with a school-house, garden, and certain payments out of lands here, in Tenterden, and Bethersden, of the yearly value of £20 3 4, the management of which was under the direction of Mr. Richard Beale, with other feoffees. This endowment was latterly much abused for want of proper jurisdiction, and the whole afterwards became a mere sinecure.

There was a deputy, being a decayed tradesman, put in by the master, who lived in the school-house, sharing the salary between them; no children having been taught there for a considerable time.

Biddenden is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Charing. The church, dedicated to All Saints, stands on an eminence, at the west end of the village, with the parsonage-house on the north side of the same. It is a large and well-built structure, consisting of three aisles and the same number of chancels, with a handsome square tower and beacon turret. Sir Edward Henden,

baron of the Exchequer, lies buried here, obt. 1662; and several of the families of the Randolph's and Everden's. There is also a memorial for Richard Allard, alderman of Rochester, obt. 1593; and in the north chancel, a brass plate fixed to the wall, for Sir William Boddenden, and his wife, with the figures of themselves, and their children, as well as an inscription to their memories. This chancel belonged to the Mayney's, of whom there are also several monuments. The ceiling of the south chancel is of wainscot in panels, and at the corners of each are, carved and painted, different devices and arms; among others, those of the see of Canterbury, empaling Warham, *Argent three birds volant, sable and portcullis, &c.* Alice Bedlyngston, by will, in 1463, ordered her feoffees, out of the money arising from the sale of a piece of land in this parish, to make a new window on the south side of this church; and it appears that, in the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII., there was a new aisle building in this church, from the several legacies left for that purpose.

On the outside of the steeple, are three shields of arms, carved in the stonework, viz. first, *a saltier; second, a bend sinister; and third, a fret.* In the churchyard several of the family of the Beale's lay interred. This church is a rectory, and was a part of the ancient possessions of the see of Canterbury, where it has continued, the archbishop being patron thereof.

After divine service, on the Easter Sunday of every year, the following singular custom is adopted, arising, as it is said, from a bequest made by two maiden sisters, named Chulkhurst, as early as the year 1100, who left TWENTY ACRES OF LAND, called *the Bread and Cheese Land,* from the proceeds of which about 600 cakes are distributed, on the above sabbath, to the poor of this parish. The cakes in question bear the impress of two females, with the names ELIZ. MARY CHULKHURST, the bodies being, apparently, united together at the hips and shoulders; whence it has been erroneously inferred, that they were so born, and lived two bodies united. This, however, is but a vulgar tradition, originating in times when superstition was more prevalent than at present. Hasted states, that the name of the two maiden sisters was Preston, and that the print of the women on the cakes had only taken place within fifty years of the time

when he wrote, being the representation of two poor widows, as the general objects of a charitable benefaction. If the latter authority be correct, we are at a loss to account for the name of *Chulkhurst* being stamped upon the cakes so given.

It was valued in the king's books at £35, the yearly tenths being £3 10. In 1578 there were 545 communicants; and in 1640, 400; when it was valued at £120 per annum; it having been subsequently estimated at about £240 yearly rental.

In 1821 there were 218 dwellings in the parish of Biddenden; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 814, females 730, making a total of 1544 souls.

THE HUNDRED OF GREAT BARNEFIELD

Lies on the southern side of the hundred of Cranbrooke; and it is here necessary to observe, that Great and Little, or East and West Barnefield are, in fact, but two half hundreds, having formerly had their separate names of *the Eastern half and the Western half hundred of Barnefield,* which division was occasioned by their lying in two different laths.

The hundred of Great Barnefield is in the *lower division of the Lath of Scray,* and contains within its bounds the largest portion of the parish of Hawkhurst, with the church of the same, and part of the parish of Cranbrooke, which church is in another hundred. One constable claims jurisdiction over this district.

Hawkhurst Lees, the next parish southward from Cranbrooke, a small part of which, on the southern side, is called Haselden, and consists of two houses, with a little land annexed to each, the same being in the hundred of Shoyswell, and county of Sussex, and the residue in that of Kent. That portion which lays in the borough of Hawkhurst, otherwise South borough, or in the North borough, is in the hundred of Great Barnefield; and the part comprised in the East borough, is in the hundred of Selbrittenden; the residue being in the borough of Crothall, and hundred of Cranbrooke.

The borough of Hawkhurst, above mentioned, has a court-leet of its own, where the borsholders of that borough are chosen; the inhabitants owing no service to the court-leet held for the hundred of Great Barnefield; but at that court, an inhabitant of this borough may be chosen constable of that hundred. The liberty of Wye claims over this borough, which is in the *division* of West Kent.

The manor of Slipmill, otherwise Morehouse, including the *denne of Hawkhurst*, was anciently esteemed one of the appendages belonging to *the Royal manor of Wye,* the liberty

of which extends over the greater portion of this parish, and passed as such with this manor, in the gift made of the same by William the Conqueror, to the abbey of Battle, at the first foundation of that institution, in the year 1067.

In the reign of King John, Odo, then abbot, and the Convent of Battle, granted by a charter, to which there is no date, to the owners of the lands in this parish, within their royal manor of Wye, by the name of his men of Hawkhurst, *the ville of Hawkhurst*, at a certain rental in money, hens, and eggs. Subsequent to which, the abbot and convent, under Edward I., granted to them, by the name of their tenants of Hawkhurst, all the tenements there, which they held of his fee in certain dennes therein mentioned, to hold at a yearly rental, reserving suit to their court of Wye, from three weeks to three weeks, by two men only.

King Edward II., in his 5th year, granted to the abbot and convent a market to be held weekly, and a yearly fair after the feast day of St. Laurence.

This manor continued in the same state till the suppression of the abbey in the reign of Henry VIII., when, devolving to the crown, it was granted by the name of the manor of Morehouse, to Sir John Baker, of Sissinghurst, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service. His descendant, Sir Henry, knight and baronet, under James I., conveyed his interest therein to Henry Carey lord Hunsdon, lord of the manor of Wye, which had been granted to his grandfather, by Queen Elizabeth, in her 3d year. He was afterwards created Viscount Rochford, and earl of Dover; soon after which he sold the manors of Wye, and the denne of Hawkhurst, or Morehouse, to Sir Thomas Finch, knight and baronet, of Eastwell, who, on the death of his mother, in 1633, succeeded to the titles of Viscount Maidstone, and earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, when he died in 1769, without issue male. By his will he devised these estates, among the rest of his property in this county, to his nephew, George Finch Hatton, esq., of Eastwell.

At the court-baron held for this manor, now called *Slipmill*, or *Morehouse*, two beadles are elected to gather the rents, a reeve being also chosen. All the above privileges are in consequence of the grant of the 14th of Edward I., above mentioned.

The whole parish of Hawkhurst is situated exceedingly

pleasant, and very healthy, being four miles long, and three broad from east to west. There are several small streams, the largest of which is called Kent dyke, and the stream itself, the river Kent, or Kennet, which runs into the river Rother, just below Sandhurst, separating this parish from that of Salehurst, and the counties of Kent and Sussex.

The parish, till about the reign of Charles I., was divided from Salehurst, in Sussex, by a bridge, called Kent bridge, under which this river ran about six rods, at the narrow entrance beyond the present bridge. The old structure was taken away; and the river being turned, so as to run under the present edifice, the broad part between the latter, and the narrow part, is now accounted as being in Salehurst, in Sussex, but in reality is in Hawkhurst, in Kent.

The market granted, as above mentioned, under Edward II., has been long disused, but was formerly kept upon the green at the moor, opposite the seat of Elfords, where a market-cross once stood, near which was a small house called St. Margaret's cross, long since demolished. In that building the corn unsold was deposited, which place is still denominated the *Market-place*, but the fair was held near the church.

In the hedge of Beaconfield, near Beacon lane, between Fourtrowes and Foxholes, stood a beacon and watchhouse, long since taken down.

There is scarcely any wood in this parish, with the exception of the western part adjoining Goudhurst, which is entirely covered by part of the Fryth woods. The soil is in general clay, abounding with marle, but in the northern part is much sand, though few parishes present a greater diversity of soil.

There are two principal villages in this district, one called *Highgate*, built on elevated ground, on either side of the road leading from Lamberhurst and Stonecrouch, through this parish, to the county of Sussex. On the north side of this village are situated the school and almshouses, founded by the will of Sir Thomas Dunk. *The other village*, which is the most ancient, stands about half a mile southward of the former, upon a hill of equal height, a deep valley running between them, most of which consists of a kind of heath, or common, interspered with cottages and gardens, affording a very picturesque appearance. In the latter village stand the church and minister's house, and at a

small distance is the ancient seat, surrounded by pleasure-grounds, called ELFORDS, which once belonged to a family named Castleman, one of whom, Walter, in the reign of Henry VI., sold it to William Conghurst, whose descendants passed it to the Roberts's. John, of that name, died possessed of the mansion in the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth, and lies buried in this church; and his son Edward alienated the manor in the 12th year of that reign, to Richard Boys, gent., who resided here, and died possessed of the same in 1605. He lies buried in this church, as do most of his descendants, in whom this seat continued down to Samuel Boys, esq., of Elfords, who died in 1772, leaving two sons, Samuel, of Hawkhurst, who succeeded his father, and was sheriff in 1782. He bore for his arms, *Or, a griffin segreant sable*, but it appears by their tombs, that they bore it *within a bordure*, being the same coat as that claimed by the family of this name in East Kent, though we cannot trace any alliance having existed between them.

AT A SMALL DISTANCE farther southward is LILSDEN, which, at least as early as the reign of Elizabeth, was the property of the Chittenden's, eminent clothiers at that period, and in their name it continued down to John Chittenden, gent., in which it remained.

On the great road from Lamberhurst above mentioned, and at the western extremity of this parish, is *Siccoks*, commonly called *Seacocks heath*, whereon, in the parish of Etchingham, in Sussex, is a seat which belonged to the Rev. Mr. Robert Gunsley Ayerst; and, on the same road, at a small distance eastward, is a good house, formerly the property of Mr. James Potts, who, in 1681, alienated it to one Redford, in whose descendants it continued down to Thomas Redford, esq., who resided there. Still farther eastward is a seat belonging to the Baker's, George, of that name, having died possessed of the same in 1740, whose son, John, was receiver-general for the county of Kent, and rebuilt this mansion, which he denominated *Hawkhurst lodge*. He died unmarried, and by will devised it to his brother, Mr. George Baker, of Canterbury, descended from ancestors who bore for their arms, *Argent, three keys, a castle triple towered, sable*, several of the name being interred in the churchyard. The above George was succeeded by John Baker, of St. Stephen's, near Canterbury, who subsequently possessed this

manor. At a small distance still farther eastward is the village of Highgate, wherein is *Hawkhurst place,* formerly a seat of good account, though now only a farm-house. It has been for many years the property of the Peckham's, of Eridge, in Sussex, and was subsequently owned by Henry Peckham, esq. On the north side of the road is a mansion called Fowlers, particularly deserving notice as having been the property and residence of Richard Kilburne, esq., author of the Survey of this county, published in 1659. He was a man of some eminence in his profession as a lawyer, having been five times principal of Staples Inn, and a most worthy character, both as a magistrate and historian. He died in 1678, and was buried in the north chancel of this church. The Kilburne's were originally of Kilburne, in Yorkshire, whence they came into Cambridgeshire and Essex. Richard, above mentioned, was the youngest son of Isaac Kilburne, of London, who was the third son of John Kilburne, of Saffron Walden, in Essex. They bore for their arms, *Argent a chevron azure, between three bald coots proper.* Richard Kilburne left an only daughter, Anne, who entitled her husband, Thomas Brewer, esq., of West Farleigh, to the possession of this estate. He had by her two sons, John, and Philip; John, the eldest, succeeded him at West Farleigh, and Philip, the younger, had this seat at Hawkhurst, but being killed by a fall from his horse, unmarried, in 1721, it devolved to his eldest brother, John, who died in 1724, leaving an only daughter, Jane. She, surviving two husbands, died in 1762, bequeathing this seat, with the rest of her estates, to her kinsman, John Davis, D.D., who died possessed of the same in 1766, and was succeeded by his only son, Sir John Brewer Davis, knight, the ultimate possessor.

Near the east end of Highgate, a little to the north of the main road, is a seat, called Tongs, formerly possessed by the family of the Dunk's, who were great clothiers here. Simon, of that name, died possessed of this mansion in 1512, under Henry VIII., as did his descendant, Thomas, in 1617, from whom this seat continued down to Sir Thomas Dunk, who resided here, and dying possessed of the property in 1718, was buried in the middle aisle of this church. He by will devised it to William Richards, gent., who died possessed of the same in 1733, leaving an only daughter and heir, Anne, who carried it

in marriage to George Montague Dunk, earl of Halifax, who, reserving the fee of the mansion itself, passed the possession away by lease for one thousand years, at the annual rental of sixpence, with the fee simple of the offices, as well as of the lands belonging thereto, to Mr. Jeremiah Curteis, of Rye. He soon afterwards conveyed his interest herein to William Jenkin, esq., who resided here, and died in 1784, after which it was sold by his executor to David Langton, esq., who possessed the same.

About three quarters of a mile northward from TONGS, lies WOODSDEN, once the property of the Springett's, one of whom, Robert, died possessed of it in 1619, in whose descendants it remained down to John of that name, who died in 1733, when his son alienated the property to the Norris's, of Hemsted, in Benenden, whence it passed, in like manner as that seat, to Thomas Hallet Hodges, esq., who possessed this estate.

CONGHURST is a manor in the southern part of this parish, next to Sandhurst, into which it extends, having been once the property and residence of a family of that name, which race had a still more ancient seat, now called *Old Conghurst*, the moat and site whereof are yet visible, nearer to the county of Sussex; but the same being burnt by the Danes, the family erected a mansion here, where they afterwards resided. However, in the reign of Henry VIII., Mildred, daughter and coheir of George Conghurst, esq., of Conghurst, carried this seat in marriage to Thomas Scot, descended from John, of Halden, in the reign of Henry VII. His grandson, Henry Scot, of Halden, left two sons; Henry, the eldest, was of Halden, and Thomas, the younger, married the coheir of Conghurst, by whom he had two sons. From George, the eldest, descended the Scot's, of Conghurst; and from Thomas, those of Sutton at Hone, and of London. They bore on their shield, *Argent, a cross croslet, fitchee, sable,* quartered with the arms of Conghurst, viz. *azure, three congers' heads erased, fesswise, or.* Thomas Scot, above mentioned, began to build this seat, but died in 1533, and was interred in Our Lady's chancel in this church, leaving the completion of the same to Mildred, his wife. Upon her death, their son George succeeded to the possession of this estate, in whose descendants it continued for some generations, till it was at length alienated to the Weller's, in which name it remained for some years. Captain Weller, of Rolvenden, conveyed it by sale to the

Russell's, of London, whose heirs sold it to Mr. John Piper, when he became the owner of this ancient seat, now occupied only as a farm-house.

There has been no court held for this manor during many years.

A BRANCH *of the family of the Courthope's* lived at *Nettershall*, in the northern part of this parish; Henry died possessed of it in 1743, and lies buried in the church. By a female heir it then passed in marriage to Charles Moore, esq., who gave it, with one of his daughters, to John Frost, esq., and he sold it to John Boddington, esq., whose heirs were afterwards entitled to the same. The WOODGATE'S lived at *Hensill*, for whom there are several tomb-stones remaining in this churchyard. They bore for their arms, *On a chevron cotized, three trefoils, slipt between three squirrels, sejant.* It was purchased of the Woodgate's by Richard Harcourt, esq., of Wigsell, whose daughter, Elizabeth, carried it in marriage to William Boys.

The family of the Pope's resided at HOCKERIDGE, being a younger branch of those of Halden, who bore the same arms, *Or, two chevrons gules, on a canton, a mullet.* This seat is now but a small farm-house, though it gives name to one of the dennes of the manor of Glassenbury. It became the property of the Rev. Thomas Hooper, of Beckley, in Sussex, and afterwards of Messrs. William and Richard Foster. There was a branch of the family of Pix resident here for a considerable time, whose arms were, *Azure, a fess between three cross croslets, fitchee, or;* many of whom lie buried in this church, being an elder branch to those of Crayford. They had formerly large possessions in this parish, and resided at a mansion, called *Pix's hall*, in Highgate. From that family this seat was purchased by John Russel, gent., whose only daughter and heir carried it in marriage to John Knowler, esq., recorder of Canterbury, whose two daughters and coheirs were married, Anne, to Henry Penton, esq., and Mary, to William lord Digby, who, in right of their wives, became entitled to the same.

THE FAMILY OF BARNETT, from which that of Belhouse, in Essex, descended, was possessed of lands in this parish, upon the denne of Cecele, by grant from Simon de Cecele and John Retford, in the reign of Edward III.

This parish is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Charing. The church, dedicated to St. Laurence, stands on the southern side of the village of Hawkhurst, and consists of three aisles and three chancels. It was founded by the abbot of Battle, in the reign of Edward III., whose arms, as also those of his son, decorated the windows, all of which were formerly filled with curious stained glass, the whole having been nearly demolished during the civil wars, so that now there are scarcely any figures left in the windows, except two or three much defaced. In the casements of the north aisle still remain two shields, one quarterly, first and fourth; *a sword argent*, second and third, *a crown, or*: the other, *fretty azure fleur de lis, or*. An account of the former state of these windows may be seen in Kilburne's Survey of this parish. The font appears to be very ancient, having carved thereon four shields of arms. First, *a cross*; second, *a saltier*; third, *a chevron*; but the fourth is hidden by the pillar.

In the church are many grave-stones commemorative of the family of the Boys's; one for Thomas Iddenden, A.D. 1556, as well as for Humphrey Scot, with many others. In the churchyard are also several tomb-stones for the Baker's, the Davies's, the Woodgate's, &c.

In 1534, during the time this church ranked a rectory, it was rated in the king's books at £36 13 4, but, since it has ceased to be esteemed such, no first-fruits have been paid, except 11s. 8d. as a stipendiary.

The dean and chapter, in the 2d and 3d of Philip and Mary, granted to Sir William Peter, £8 per annum, to be paid out of the parsonage, towards the support of the vicar or incumbent; and, in the reign of James I., the stipendiary incumbent had of the dean and chapter a salary of £20 per annum, as well as the profits of the Easter book, with other small immunities, which were, however, so inconsiderable that, upon this living being sequestered, about the year 1642, no one could be found to serve the same, and, in consequence, it was destitute of a pastor for more than fourteen months.

The slender income of the incumbent at length induced Sir Thomas Dunk to make an addition, who, by his will in 1718,

left £200 to be employed with the like sum acquired from Queen Anne's Bounty, in the purchase of lands for the augmentation of this living, which also received considerable gifts from other benefactors.

In 1578 there were 680 communicants, and in 1640, 1400.

In 1821 there were 382 dwellings in the parish of Hawkhurst, and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow : males 1129, females 1121, making a total of 2250 souls.

HUNDRED OF EASTRY.

HAVING thus completed our description of Kent to the border of the county of Sussex, in this direction, we have now to retrograde in order to describe the extensive hundred of Eastry, being the only district remaining to be treated of, in that portion of our labour which is already terminated.

The hundred of Eastry lies next westward to that of BEWSBOROUGH, which, in the record of Domesday, is said to lay wholly within the lath of the same name.

THIS HUNDRED CONTAINS WITHIN ITS BOUNDARIES THE PARISHES OF HAM; BETSHANGER; WALDERSHARE; EYTHORNE, *in part;* BARFRISTON, *otherwise* BARSON; TILMANSTONE; CHILLENDEN; KNOLTON; EASTRY, *in part;* WORTH, *or* WORD; WOODNESBOROUGH, *in part; and* DENTON.

The church of Denton is in this hundred, and part of the parish in that of Kinghamford, under which, though improperly placed, a description of this parish may be found, and to which the reader is referred; as also part of the parishes of NONINGTON, WOOTTON, and STAPLE, the churches of which are in other hundreds. *Two constables* have jurisdiction over this hundred, which is divided into the upper and lower half hundred.

The upper half hundred consists of the parishes of EASTRY, WORTH, TILMANSTONE, UPPER EYTHORNE, that is to say, as much of the parish as lies in this hundred, namely the borough of Gedding, not including Wootton church, and as much of the borough of BARNSOLE as lies in Staple.

The lower half hundred consists of the parishes of WOODNESBOROUGH, CHILLENDEN, KNOLTON, HAM, BETSHANGER, WALDERSHARE, BARSON, DENTON, and part of NONINGTON, not including the church.

This arrangement is according to the nomination of the constables. That for the upper half hundred being chosen at

Eastry court; and that for the lower, at the court of Quarter Sessions. At Eastry court are likewise chosen borsholders for Eastry Street borough. The borough of Felderland, in Worth, which comprehends Statenborough, and some adjoining lands in Eastry; the borough of Worth Street, containing the remainder of the parish, excepting the borough of Hackling; the borough of Barnsole, in Staple; the borough of Craythorne, in Tilmanstone, comprising the Lower street there, Barville, &c.; and the borough of Gedding, in Wootton; that also of Southcourt, comprehending the remainder of Tilmanstone, the borsholder for which is chosen at the manor of Southcourt, all of which are in the upper half hundred of Eastry.

Within the several parishes, likewise, in this hundred, the following borsholders are chosen for the districts therein, which belong to other hundreds, viz. one at Adisham court, for the borough of Hardenden, or Hernden, comprising Selstone, being the residue of Eastry, reputed to be in the hundred of Downhamford. One at the same court for the borough of South Langdon, in Eythorne, within the same hundred; and one for the borough of Lower Eythorne, at Wingham court, being, it is said, within that hundred. Notwithstanding these boroughs are in other hundreds, yet the constable of the upper half hundred of Eastry claims jurisdiction over them, and persons residing therein have been indiscriminately appointed to serve that office.

The parish of Ham, in the hundred of Eastry, lies the next to that of Northborne, written in Domesday, *Hama*, and in several records, *King's Ham*. There was no borsholder chosen for this parish or Betshanger, till some years back, when one was appointed at the petty sessions, to act jointly for both parishes; the constable for the lower half hundred of Eastry having always previously acted in that capacity.

This parish lies at the northern boundary of the uplands of East Kent, being both pleasant and healthy, commanding a beautiful view of the adjoining open country, the town of Deal, the Downs, and the Channel, as far as the coast of France. It is situated on an eminence, the hill sloping towards the north-east. There are about 500 acres of land in this parish; the soil is in general fertile, consisting partly of chalk, and a rich loamy earth; the grounds are chiefly arable, open, and unenclosed, at

the extremity of which, towards the east, is the high road to Deal. Northward of the village, the ground falls towards Ham bridge, over the South stream, which directs its course hence towards Hackling, Worth chapel, and so on to Sandwich, through which town it runs into the river Stour. In this part of the parish, the lands consist of marshes and pasture, and the country becomes damp, while the air is foggy and unwholesome. About three quarters of a mile southward from the village, is the hamlet of Updowne. This parish extends about a mile and a half from north to south, and about half a mile from east to west. There is no fair.

THE MANOR OF HAM, was, at the survey of Domesday, part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in that record. Upon the disgrace of this prelate, it became confiscated to the crown, when the king having put Dover castle under a new order of government, this manor was granted, among other lands, to Hugh de Port, for his assistance under John de Fienes, in its defence. These lands together made up the barony of Port, and were held by barony by the service of performing ward at the above fortress, for the defence of the same. In the reign of King Henry III. this manor was held by knight's service of his descendants, John de St. John, by John Fitz-bernard; soon after which it appears to have been *separated into moieties:* ONE OF WHICH was held by Henry de Sandwich, heir of Ralph Fitzbernard in the reign of Edward I., in manner as above mentioned, as it was subsequently by Ralph de Sandwich. Soon after the above period it passed into the family of the Leyborne's, where it remained till Juliana, daughter of Thomas de Leyborne, died possessed of it; and, leaving no issue by either of her husbands, the property became escheated to the crown, where it remained till Richard II. granted it to Sir Simon de Burley, knight banneret, warden of the Cinque Ports, and knight of the garter. He being attainted in parliament in the 10th year of that reign, and afterwards beheaded, this estate again became vested in the crown, when the king, in his 11th year, settled it on the priory of canons, otherwise Chiltern Langley, in Hertfordshire. It continued vested in that fraternity till the dissolution under Henry VIII., when he granted it, with the site of the priory, to Richard, bishop suffragan of Dover, to hold for his

life, or until he should be promoted to some ecclesiastical benefice of £100 yearly value. That event having taken place before the 36th year of the above monarch, this moiety of the manor was granted by him, to Sir Thomas Moyle, to hold *in capite*, who alienated it to Sir Robert Oxenbridge, in the 2d of Edward VI., and he becoming possessed of the other moiety, in right of his wife, Alice, daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Fogge, enjoyed the whole of this manor. By his descendant it was then passed away, at the latter end of the reign of Elizabeth, to Edward Boys, esq. of Betshanger, whose descendant, Edward Grotius Boys, dying in 1706, gave it by will to his kinsman, Thomas Brett, LL.D., rector of this parish. He was the son of Thomas Brett, gent. of Wye, by Letitia, the only surviving sister of Jefferey Boys, esq., of Betshanger, who not long afterwards alienated the estate to Sir Henry Furnese, bart. of Waldershare. His son, Sir Robert Furnese, bart. of the same place, died possessed of it in 1733, after which it became, with his other estates, at length vested in his three daughters and coheirs, when, on a partition of the property, in the 9th of George II., this manor was allotted to Anne, the eldest sister, wife of John viscount St. John; after which it descended down to their grandson, George viscount Bolingbroke; and he, in 1790, sold it to Mr. Thomas Petman, of Eastry, who afterwards possessed the same. A court-baron is held for this manor, which claims over some lands of trifling extent in Chillenden.

Updowne Place is a seat in this parish, situated in the hamlet of Updowne, in the north-west boundary of the same, adjoining Eastry. This seat, for beauty of situation, healthiness of country, and extent of prospect, stands unrivalled even in these parts, abounding in prospects so justly entitled to our admiration. The view presents a most delightful *coup d'œil* over the adjacent country, the North Foreland, Ramsgate, the town of Deal, and the adjoining Channel.

The estate formerly belonged to Mr. Richard Thompson, of Waldershare, who alienated it to Captain Thomas Fagg, of Dover, when the latter possessor first fitted it up as a gentleman's residence; he died in 1748, and was buried in this church. After his demise it was sold, according to the direction of his will, to Sir George Oxenden, bart. of Dean, when he conveyed it to his son Henry, who occasionally resided here, and made

considerable improvements. By him it was afterwards passed away to Matthew Collet, esq., who also laid out much money in beautifying and embellishing this estate, making several plantations in the vicinity, and purchasing an adjoining farm, the grounds of which he added thereto. He died possessed of this estate in 1777, and was buried in the nave of this church. His widow also made this place her residence, during which time, she purchased of Sir Edward Dering, bart. another small farm, part of the Furnese estate, and alienated the whole, in 1778, to the late John Minet Fector, esq. of Dover, banker and merchant, who in 1780 enlarged his property here by the purchase of an estate, called Updowne farm, in this hamlet; subsequent to which, he added considerably to the extent and improvement of the seat, imparking the lands around, and occasionally residing at this enchanting mansion.

This parish is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sandwich. The church, dedicated to St. George, is but a mean building, consisting of a nave and chancel, with a small wooden turret, in which is one bell.

In the chancel are several memorials for the Bunce's, of this parish: in the nave, a tomb for Thomas Fagg, esq., obt. 1748, æt. sixty-five: another for Lydia his daughter, obt. 1737, two years old, murdered by a maidservant, who was hanged for the act. A memorial also exists here for Matthew Collet, esq., of Updowne place, obt. 1777. The church of Ham was granted by Archbishop Baldwin, in the reign of Henry II., at the petition of Sir William de Norfolk, lord of the soil, to the prior and convent of Leeds, to hold in pure and perpetual alms.

With the priory, this church remained vested, till the dissolution, under Henry VIII.; since which the advowson of this rectory has continued with the crown, the king being patron thereof.

This rectory was valued in the king's books at £5 6 5½, the yearly tenths being 10s. 7½d. In 1588, there were twenty-nine communicants, when it was estimated at £50; and in 1640, there were only twenty communicants, the value continuing the same. It has since produced an annual income of £60, there being also some glebe lands annexed, but no parsonage house.

It may not be improper here to remark, that the value of

church livings in the two divisions of East and West Kent are differently estimated by the respective courts of the Quarter Sessions; viz. in East Kent, the court, in all valuations of church livings, as to parochial and other assessments, never allows the stipend of the curate, as a reprise or outgoing, to be deducted in favor of the incumbent; whereas, in West Kent, the court, on the contrary, always deducts it in his favor, and allows it to him, as a reprise, out of the yearly value of his living.

In 1821 there were five dwellings in the parish of Ham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 10, females 16, making a total of 26 souls.

Betshanger, in ancient records written *Betteshangre*, lies the next parish southward from Ham, being both pleasant and healthy, though small; containing only about 260 acres of land, the soil of which is much the same as that of the neighbouring parishes, but inclining to be chalky. There are but three houses in this district: the court lodge or mansion of Betshanger, situated in the bottom of a valley, having the church near it; the farm-house of the Betshanger estate; and one farm-house, in the northern part of the parish, formerly belonging to the Napleton's, but afterwards to John Minet Fector, esq. The road from Canterbury to Deal runs along the north-east side, at a small distance from the mansion; round which the hills rise, consisting of arable land, being mostly open and unenclosed.

The manor of Northborne claims paramount over this parish; subordinate to which, is the manor of Great Betshanger, so called to distinguish it from that adjoining of *Little Betshanger*, in the parish of Northborne. This estate was among those lands assigned to Hugh de Port, for his assistance, under John de Fienes, in the defence of Dover castle; and, together, made up the barony of Port, being held by barony of the above castle, by the service of performing ward therein for that purpose. It was held of his descendants, the St. John's, by knight's service, by a family named De Marinis, or Marney; one of whom, John, obtained a charter of *free warren* for his demesne lands within this manor, in the 1st of Edward III. In that name it did not long continue, as John de Tenacre, or

Tancre, soon after appears to have held it, by whom it was sold, about the 20th year of the same reign, to John de Soles. How long it continued in his descendants we have not found, but, in the reign of Henry IV., it had become the property of one Rutter; from which name it passed, about the beginning of the reign of Edward IV., to that of Litchfield, in which it continued some time. Philipott says, their arms were in his time in the windows of Dane court, in Tilmanstone, viz. *Bendee of six pieces, azure and ermine.* Roger Litchfield died in the 4th of Henry VIII., after which this property passed by will to his three daughters; and on a division of their inheritance, this manor was carried, by Alice the eldest, in marriage, to Thomas Cocks, esq., customer of Sandwich, who, at the latter end of that reign, alienated it to John Boys. He was afterwards knighted, and died in 1612, having devised this manor to Edward Boys, esq., his nephew, one of the sons of Vincent Boys, of Bekesborne, who resided in this mansion, which he probably rebuilt, the arms of Boys, with the quarterings, being over the mantel-piece, in the hall, carved in stone. Having lived on this estate nearly fifty years, he died, and was buried in this church, in 1649. His son, John, possessed this manor, and was a member of the long Parliament that commenced its operations in 1640, at which period he zealously sided with the enemies of the king and the established church. He died in 1678, having been thrice married, when his two sons, by his first wife, Edward and John, afterwards succeeded to this manor; but both dying, the latter, in 1698, left this estate by will to his eldest half-brother, Jefferey Boys, esq. of Canterbury, a bencher of Gray's Inn. His only son, Edward Grotius Boys, esq., of Canterbury, died possessed of the estate in 1706, and was interred with his ancestors, in this church. They bore for their arms, *Or, a griffin segreant sable, within a bordure gules.* Edward Grotius Boys dying, bequeathed this manor to his kinsman, the Rev. Thomas Brett, rector of this parish, who, about the year 1713, alienated it to Salmon Morrice, esq., a captain in the royal navy, and afterwards admiral. He nearly rebuilt this seat, and resided here till his death, in 1740, being the son of Capt. Morrice, of the navy, who was younger son of the family of that name at Werrington, in Devonshire. At the period of his death, he was viceadmiral of the White, when his

remains were interred, under an elegant marble monument in a small building adjoining the church, with those of his wife, daughter of William Wright, esq., a commissioner of the navy. By that lady he had two sons and four daughters; the former were Wright Morrice, esq., who died during the lifetime of his father; and William, who became his heir, was settled by his father at Betshanger, and afterwards resided at Canterbury. He died in 1758, having married Mary, daughter of Robert Chadwick, esq. of Northfleet, a captain in the navy, by whom he had four sons. William, a lieutenant colonel of Dragoons, who possessed Betshanger, and died, unmarried, in 1787; Robert, who died an infant; and the Rev. James Morrice, vicar of Flower, in Northamptonshire, who became his brother's heir to the manor of Betshanger, and rector of this parish. He married the second daughter of Adrian Ducarel, merchant of London, by whom he had two sons and three daughters. The arms of the Morrice's are *Gules a lion rampant, regardant or.* There is no court held for this manor, which has for many years lost the reputation of being such.

THIS PARISH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sandwich. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a small inconsequential building, consisting of a nave and chancel, both of which are kept extremely neat. Over the south door is a circular arch, with zigzag moulding; and beneath, a figure of Christ, that appears much older than the church itself, which bears no signs of antiquity. There is a small wooden turret at the west end, wherein are three bells. In the east window of the chancel are the following shields of arms, *Sable on a chevron, between three flags, attired argent, a mullet of the first for cocks: chequy, or, and azure a fess gules, all within a bordure of the last, for Clifford.* In this church are buried many of the family of the Boys's, formerly possessors of the manor, and residents in this parish, whose monuments and grave-stones are still remaining therein.

Within a covered building, connected with the church, and erected for the purpose, is an elegant monument, sculptured by Scheemaker, to the memory of Admiral Morrice. A mural monument also exists here for John James, A.M., rector of this parish and Deal, obt. 1775.

This church, which is a rectory, has always been appendant

to the manor, the Rev. James Morrice having been patron and rector of the same.

The rectory was valued in the king's books at £7 14; and was subsequently a discharged living, of about the clear annual value of £60.

In 1588 there were thirty communicants, and it was estimated at £40; and in 1640 the communicants amounted to twenty, at which period the value was £60.

It has no parsonage-house or barn, nor any other glebe, excepting the churchyard, which is very small, though it appears, by the statement in the king's books, taken in the 26th of Henry VIII., that there was then seven acres of arable glebe belonging to this living.

In 1821 there were three dwellings in the parish of Betshanger; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 12, females 9, making a total of 21 souls.

Waldershare is the next parish southward from Betshanger, being written in Domesday *Walwasere*, and in other records, both *Walworthshire* and *Walwareshare*, deriving its name, most probably, from the *Wolds*, or open downs, amid which it is situated. A borsholder is appointed for this parish, including the district of Apulton, at the court-leet of Waldershare manor.

This parish is situated in a healthy country, among the high hills, near the eastern boundary of the county, next the sea, from which it is distant only five miles, and about the same from Dover. It lies a mile and a half northward of the great London road, and extends about two miles from north to south, but is very narrow across in the opposite direction. It contains in the whole about 1000 acres of land, the rents of which amount to about £600 per annum. The whole parish belongs to the Earl of Guildford, excepting Southwood, Heasledown, London close, part of Linacre court, and Appleton. In the southern part is Waldershare park, well clothed with trees, with the mansion, in a vale, nearly in the centre: the Belvidere is at the south-west corner, on elevated ground, commanding a beautiful prospect: but the whole, Mr. Hasted observes, in his time, was in great

want of modern taste and embellishment. The church is situated near the middle of the eastern side of the parish. At the northern boundary is Malmains farm, the ancient mansion of that family in this parish, though now only a mean farm-house, belonging to the Earl of Guildford, and an open unenclosed down, called *Maimage down*, corruptly for Malmains down. The country here presents much the same appearance and soil as those of the neighbouring parishes, which display a wild and mountainous aspect, the land being poor and chalky. A fair is held here, on Whit Tuesday, annually, for toys and pedlary.

Waldershare, at the survey of Domesday, constituted part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was therein entered. Upon the disgrace of that prelate, the king assigned this manor to Gilbert Magminot, for his assistance in the defence of Dover castle, being held by barony of that fortress, by the service of performing ward there from time to time.

Of the Magminot's and their descendants, the Saye's, the chief lords of the seignory, this manor was again held by the family of the Malmaines's, of great account in these parts; the descendants of whom were possessed of manors, called after them, in Alkham, Pluckley, and Stoke, their residence in this parish having been also named after them. John de Malmaines is recorded in the roll of Battle Abbey, as having accompanied the Conqueror to England, and been present at the battle of Hastings, as standardbearer to the Norman footmen. From him descended the several branches of this family seated in different parts of the county, who were many of them men eminent for the offices of trust and honour which they at different times held. They bore for their arms, *Ermine on a chief gules, three right hands couped argent;* which shield is carved in stone in various parts of the rooffing of the cloisters of Canterbury cathedral. Several of this eminent family lie buried in the Gray Friar's church, in London. From their long residence here, not only their mansion in this parish acquired the name of Malmaines, but the manor itself became styled, in records, Waldershare, otherwise Malmaines.

From John de Malmaines, above mentioned, who first held this manor under the Conqueror, it descended down to Henry, of Waldershare, who died possessed of it, in the 46th of

Edward III., leaving an only daughter and heir, Alice. It however appears, that she only inherited a portion of this manor and estate, which she carried in marriage to Henry Holland, of Solton, near Dover, who died possessed of her interest therein about the 19th of Richard II., leaving Jane his daughter and heir, married to Thomas Goldwell, of Godington, in Great Chart, who possessed the same. From him it descended to his grandson, of the same name; who, about the beginning of the reign of Henry VI., alienated his portion to John Monins, esq., who had previously become possessed of the other part of this manor, by his marriage with the daughter and heir of Colby, who inherited this estate in right of his wife, daughter and heir of Thomas, son of John Malmaines, of Stoke. He was related to Henry Malmaines, before mentioned, on whose demise, under Edward III., it descended to him, so that he then became possessed of the whole of this manor.

John Monins, or *Monyn*, as the name was sometimes spelt in ancient deeds, was descended from Sir Simon de Monyn, of the castle of Mayon, in Normandy, who attended William the Conqueror in his expedition to England, and bore for his arms, *Gules three crescents or*, the coat-armour of his descendants at this time. John Monins, esq. afterwards resided at Waldershare, where he built a new mansion, about a mile southeastward from the ancient dwelling of the Malmaines's, in which he afterwards resided, as did his descendants, down to Sir William Monins, of Waldershare, who was created a baronet in 1611. He died in 1643, and was succeeded in title and estate by his eldest son, Sir Edward Monins, bart. of Waldershare, who served the office of sheriff in the 21st of King Charles I., and died possessed of this manor and estate, in 1663. He left five daughters his coheirs, when this manor and seat devolved to his two eldest; Susan, married to Peregrine Bertie, second son of Montague earl of Lindsey; and Jane, to John, son and heir of Sir Norton Knatchbull, bart. The former left two daughters and coheirs; Mary, married, first, to Anthony Henley, esq. of the Grange, in Hampshire, father of the lord chancellor the earl of Northington, and secondly, to Henry Bertie, third son of James earl of Abingdon; and Bridget, to John lord Powlet, afterwards created earl Powlet. On the demise of Susan, the eldest daughter, who appears, at her death, to have been possessed of the whole of

this manor and estate, it became vested in her heirs and trustees, for the use of her two daughters and coheirs; and they, in the reign of William and Mary, joined in the sale of this estate to Sir Henry Furnese, bart. of Waldershare, who rebuilt this seat after a design, as it is said, of Inigo Jones, and enclosed a park round the same, which he planted in an elegant manner, with avenues according to the taste of that period.

Sir Henry Furnese was eldest son of Henry Furnese, of Sandwich. His next brother, George, entered the East-India Company's service; and his son, Henry, was of Gunnersbury house. He died in 1712, leaving by his wife, Anne, daughter of Robert Brough, esq., one son, Sir Robert Furnese, bart. His second wife was Matilda, widow of Anthony Balam, esq., by whom he had a daughter, married to Richard Edgcumbe, afterwards created lord Edgcumbe.

Sir Henry Furnese, the eldest son, became a wealthy merchant, and by his industry and abilities, rose to fortune, eminence, and honours. Being always active and zealous in support of the revolution, he was favorably distinguished by King William and the whigs in general; and being patronised by the ministry, acquired weight and consequence, and was enabled to carry on the various branches of trade whereby he acquired immense riches. He served the office of sheriff of London in 1701; was, in 1707, created a baronet; and on his demise, bequeathed a handsome legacy, for charitable uses, to the several parishes of Sandwich. He bore for his arms, *Argent, a talbot bound segeant, within a bordure sable.*

Sir Robert Furnese, bart., son of the above, resided here, and died, possessed of this manor and seat, in 1733, being at that time knight of the shire for the county. He was thrice married, first, to Anne, daughter of Anthony Ealam, esq., by whom he had one daughter, espoused to lord viscount St. John; he married, secondly, the Hon. Arabella Watson, one of the daughters of the earl of Rockingham, by whom he had Henry, his successor; and lastly, to Lady Anne Shirley, daughter of Earl Ferrars, by whom he left an only daughter, Selina, married to Edward Dering, esq., afterwards Sir Edward. Sir Henry survived his father but a short time, dying abroad, in 1735, under age, and unmarried; when this, among the rest of his estates, by virtue of the limitations in his grandfather's will, became

vested in his three sisters, as the coheirs of his father, Sir Robert, in equal shares and proportions, in coparcenary in tail general. This manor and estate was then, by a writ of partition, granted to Catherine, wife of Lewis earl of Rockingham, who died in 1745, leaving her surviving him, who then again possessed this estate in her own right. She afterwards married Francis earl of Guildford, by whom she had no issue, and dying in 1766, devised it, with the rest of her estates, to her surviving husband, who died in 1790, and was buried at Wroxton, in Oxfordshire, near the countess, his wife. He was the only surviving son of Francis lord Guildford, and, by the death of William lord North and Grey, succeeded as his heir to the former of these titles, bearing that of Lord North and Guildford; and, in 1752, was further advanced to the title of earl Guildford, in Surrey.

He married, first, Lucy, daughter of George earl of Halifax, by whom he had Frederic, who became his heir; secondly, the widow of Viscount Lewisham, by whom he had two daughters; and thirdly, Catherine countess of Rockingham. Upon the earl of Guildford's death, in 1790, in his eighty-seventh year, he was succeeded by his eldest son, Frederic lord North, knight of the garter, a nobleman well known as having continued prime minister of this realm during the late unhappy war with the American states. He died in 1792, in London, being at that time lord warden of the Cinque Ports, and constable of Dover castle; and was buried at Wroxton. His lordship married Anne, daughter of George Speke, esq., of Dillington, in Somersetshire, by whom he left three sons and three daughters; the former were, George, Augustus, Frederic, and Francis; the latter, Caroline, married to Sylvester Douglas, esq.; and Anne and Charlotte, unmarried. The eldest son, George Augustus, succeeded his father in title and this estate, who married, first, Miss Hobart, daughter of the earl of Buckinghamshire; and secondly, in 1796, the daughter of Mr. Thomas Coutts, banker, of London, by whom he has two daughters.

In Waldershare house was a portrait of Sir Robert Furnese, by Carlo Maretti, painted at Rome; and there is now another portrait of him, marked F. T. the hand resting on a book, entitled *Monumenta Romana*. There are also two family pictures, by Sir Godfrey Kneller; one, of Sir Robert Furnese, with

his first wife and daughter; the other, of Sir Robert and his second wife, with their son Henry, and daughter Catherine. A court-leet and court-baron is held for the manor of Waldershare.

The earl of Guildford bears for his arms, *Azure a lion passant or, between three fleurs de lis, argent* for supporters, *two dragons sable scaled, ducally gorged, and chained or:* and for crest, *on a wreath of its colours, a dragon's head, sable scaled, ducally gorged and chained or.* Motto, *La vertue est la seule noblesse.*

Apulton is a district esteemed to be within this parish, though separated from the residue of the same by a portion of the parishes of Norborne and West Langdon intervening. It is situated northward from the other part of Waldershare, and appears, by the Domesday survey, to have constituted part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was therein entered. Upon the disgrace of that ecclesiastic, it was granted to Robert Magminot, for his assistance in the defence of Dover castle; and of that family and their heirs these manors were again held by the eminent line of the Malmaines's, which continued in possession of the same down to Henry Malmaines. He joining with Simon earl of Leicester in the rebellion against Henry III., would have forfeited all his lands, had not the abbot of the monastery of Langdon interceded for him, and procured his pardon; for which service his descendant, Sir John, through gratitude, gave the two manors of Apleton and Southwold, by will, after the death of Lora his wife, who held them in dower, to the above-mentioned monastery. They both continued in the abbot's possession till the 1st of Richard III., when that dignitary exchanged Southwold with Robert Monins, esq., for other lands elsewhere; but Apleton was, on the suppression of the abbey, under Henry VIII., surrendered to the crown, together with the other possessions of the monastery. The above monarch also seized Southwold, then belonging to Edward Monins, esq., as part of the possessions of the monastery, and unjustly alienated the same from him; which estate was subsequently granted to the archbishop of Canterbury. That dignitary, in the 1st of Elizabeth, re-exchanged Apleton with the crown, but retained Southwold; which has continued part of the possessions of the above see.

However, the manor of Apleton, or *Appulton*, as it is

sometimes called, was afterwards granted to Sir Edwyn Sandys, of Northborne, in whose descendants it continued till passed away to one Wickenden, when Robert of that name, gent. of Dover, died possessed of it in 1686, and by will left it to his son. His descendant, Mr. Nicholas Wickenden, dying without issue, devised it to his servants, who sold it to Mr. Samuel Billingsley, of London, and his widow marrying Mr. Richard Crickett, entitled him to the possession of the same.

There is no court held for this manor.

This parish is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury, and *deanery* of Sandwich. The church, dedicated to All Saints, is a small mean building, consisting only of a body and chancel, with a wooden turret at the west end, being almost overgrown with ivy. There are two additional buildings on either side of the chancel, each of which communicates with the church. That northward contains a most magnificent pyramidical monument, erected by Sir Robert Furnese, bart., in memory of his father Sir Henry. Four female figures in white marble, as large as life, support the base, on the four sides of which are inscriptions to the memories of his father; his sister, Matilda; his three wives; his son Henry, and his daughters Anne and Catherine, all buried here; the whole being finely executed by Mr. Greene, of Camberwell. In the building southward is a large altar tomb, whereon are the figures of a man and woman, carved out of all proportion, and conspicuously absurd, with an inscription to the memory of the Hon. Susan Bertie, fourth daughter of Sir Edward Monins, of Waldershare, wife of the Hon. Peregrine Bertie. Over the same are banners and pendants. In the chancel, against the south wall, is a monument for Sir Edward Monins, and Elizabeth his wife, as well as many other mementos for that family. In the east window are painted several female figures, which are singularly indecorous for the adornment of a place of divine worship. There are also many other memorials for various persons of this parish.

This church was valued in the king's books at £5 8 0, but was afterwards a discharged living, of the clear yearly value of £25. In 1588 there were thirty-three communicants, and in 1640 the same number, when the valuation was £38. Archbishop Juxon augmented this vicarage by £20 per annum, under

Charles II. There is no vicarage house, and only one acre of glebe land adjoining the churchyard; but, from the king's books, it appears there were formerly two acres annexed to this living.

In 1821 there were eleven dwellings in the parish of Waldershare; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 34, females 35, making a total of 69 souls.

Eythorne, commonly pronounced *Aythorne*, lies the next parish westward from Waldershare, being written in the Saxon codicils, *Hegythe Thorne*, and in later records, *Eghethorne*, but now usually Eythorne.

This parish, which is divided into the two districts of Upper and Lower Eythorne, is said to lie in the hundred of Eastry, the constable of the upper half hundred exercising jurisdiction over the same; notwithstanding which, the former being the southern part of this parish, within the borough of South Langdon, sometimes called *Socage Langdon*, is believed to be in the upper half hundred of Downhamford, the borsholder for which is chosen at the court-leet of the manor of Adisham, within which it lies; and the latter, or northern part, within the borough of Eythorne, being reputed as within the upper half hundred of Wingham.

This borough includes within its boundaries, Lower Eythorne Street, comprehending the church, Elmton farm, and Eythorne Court manor and lands, the whole being within the hundred last mentioned, at the court of which a borsholder is appointed for the same. Neither Elmington, usually called Elmton, nor Street End, were formerly included in this borough, both having been lately added thereto, in order to answer particular purposes. The road between Pitfield and Brincele is the boundary of the demesne lands of the manor of Eythorne court, and also of the lands over which it claims, being properly the line that divides the two boroughs.

Eythorne lies in a hilly open country, the soil chalky, and much covered with flints, is extremely barren in most parts, and contains about 1244 acres of land. The southern part, from its situation, is called Upper Eythorne, comprehending within the

same the borough of South Langdon, in which is a hamlet, called the Green. Another hamlet, named Upper Eythorne street, comprehends the forstal, where there is a house, which once belonged to a large farm, called Park End, the property of the earl of Guildford, the largest portion having long since been taken into Waldershare park. At a small distance southward from the above forstal, is a small seat pleasantly situated, built in 1762, by Peter Fector, esq., of Dover, who occasionally resided there. Mr. Fector, who bore for his arms, *Vert, two doves in pale, argent, beaked and legged, gules, the upper one holding an olive branch, or;* was possessed of considerable landed property in different parishes in this part of the county, and has been already noticed, in the description of Dover, as a very eminent banker, and merchant of that place. His mother was the daughter of Mr. Minet, who, with his five brothers and three sisters, came over from France on the revocation of the edict of Nantes, in 1686, having sacrificed their situation and property in that country for adhering to their religious tenets. The late Mr. Fector married Mary, eldest daughter of John Minet, A.M., rector of Eythorne, descended from the same family, by whom he had three sons and three daughters, John Minet Fector, of Dover, banker, and of Updowne place, in Ham, esq., who married Anne Wortley Montague, esq., the only daughter of Sir Robert Laurie, bart., of Maxwells town, in Scotland, and M.P. for Dumfries. James Peter, likewise of Dover, and in partnership with his father and brother above mentioned, and William unmarried, the daughters being Alicia, Mary, and Elizabeth. The mansion is beautifully situated, commanding a view over Waldershare park, and a sublime prospect beyond of the Channel, and the hills of Boulogne, on the coast of France.

Farther northward is the borough of Lower Eythorne, comprehending Eythorne court, and Lower Eythorne street, within which is the church and parsonage, with the two small hamlets of Wigmore (formerly Jenkin,) and Street End. At the northern boundary of the parish is Elmington, but lately accounted within this borough, and a farm, called Brimsdale, belonging to Mr. Underdowne Harvey, the son of Thomas, late of Eythorne court. These Harvey's, of Eythorne court, branched off from Richard Harvey, of West Studdal, the original ancestor, about 200 years back, being of the family of that name, dispersed over

this part of Kent. The father of the above-mentioned Thomas Harvey first came to Eythorne court, as tenant, in 1711, and subsequently his grandson, Philip Harvey, remained there.

This parish is long and narrow, being more than two miles and a half from north to south, and not more than three quarters of a mile the other way. At the southern extremity are several lines of a Roman intrenchment, and a large barrow, or *tumulus*, about a quarter of a mile eastward from Eythorne Court wood, near the road leading to Waldershare. A fair is held here on Midsummer-day for pedlary.

A branch of the family of the Merriweather's formerly resided in this parish.

CUTHRED, *king of Kent*, about the year 807, with the consent of Cenulph, king of Mercia, gave to Æthelnoth, his minister, three plough lands in the place called *aet Heyghe Thorne*, for a sum of money, that is to say, 3000 pence, free from all secular services, with the liberty of giving them during his life, and leaving them at his death, to whomsoever he chose.

After the above period, this estate seems to have passed to the possession of Archbishop Wulfred, who, in the year 824, gave it with the lands of Langdune, (most probably the borough of South Langdon, in this parish,) in exchange for Bereham, to the monks of the priory of Christ church. How long it remained with that community we have not discovered, but in all likelihood it was wrested from them during the period of those troubles that prevailed anterior to the Norman conquest, as not long after it appears to have been in the possession of the family of the Badlesmere's. In that line it remained till Bartholomew being attainted in the reign of Edward II., this manor of Eythorne passed to the crown, and so remained till Edward III. granted it to Sir John Bowden, who, in the 18th year of that reign, conveyed it to John de Goldsborough. On the demise of the latter, it passed to Thomas Holben, and he, in the 12th of Richard II., alienated it to Robert Dane, who sold the reversion to John Dygge, of Berham. After the above period, this manor seems to have fallen into the possession of Robert Webbe, who, in the 4th of Henry VI., alienated it to John St. Clere, by whom it was transferred by sale to Sir Walter Hungerford, of Heytsbury, ancestor of those of Farley castle, which family bore for their arms, *Sable, two bars, argent, in chief, three plates.* He

again sold it about the latter end of the same reign, to Sir Thomas Browne, of Beechworth castle, comptroller and treasurer of the royal household, who, in the 29th year of that prince, obtained the grant of a fair on the day of St. Peter, *ad vincula*, yearly in this parish of Eythorne, and another grant soon after to embattle and impark, with liberty of *free warren* within this manor. In his descendants this property continued down to Sir Thomas, of Beechworth castle, whose lands were *disgavelled* by the Acts of the 1st and 8th of Queen Elizabeth, and he, in the 16th year of that reign, alienated it to Francis Santon, whose son, in the 28th year of the same reign, sold it to Sir William Rither. The latter possessor then willed this estate to Susan, one of his daughters and coheirs, wife of Sir Thomas Cesar, one of the barons of the Exchequer, who remarried Mr. Thomas Philipott, of Compton Wascelin, in Hants. Having also survived him, she, at her death, bequeathed the same to her only son by her second husband, Mr. Villiers Philipott, who, at the latter end of the reign of Charles I., conveyed it by sale to Mr. John Brett, of London. How it subsequently passed we have not found, but, after some intermediate owners, it went to the possession of Richard Sherbrooke, esq. of London, who owned it in the reign of George III., and, at his death, devised it to his sister, married to Mr. Mead, by whom she left an only daughter, who espousing John Wilkes, esq., entitled him to the possession of this estate, after which, his only daughter, Mrs. Mary Wilkes, owned this manor, usually called Eythorne court.

The house is very large and ancient, being built of stone, the walls remarkably thick and strong, and the whole mantled with ivy. In the windows are several shields of arms in stained glass.

A court-baron is held for this manor, which claims over the whole borough of Eythorne, excepting Elmington.

Elmington, generally called *Elmton*, is a manor near the northern boundary of this parish, which has only of late years been reputed as being within the same; a portion was, at the survey of Domesday, in the possession of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in that record. After the disgrace of this bishop, the eminent family of Malmaine's appear to have possessed this property, of whom it was again held in the reign of Edward II. by Guido de Shillingheld, and after him by Peter Condie, or Cundie, of Sandwich,

descended from those seated at Condie's hall, in Whitstable, who possessed it in the reign of Edward III. After that period it descended to William, son of John de Condie, who died in the 42d year of the above reign, without legitimate issue, when his sister Margaret, his coheir, carried it in marriage to Robert Grubbe, who likewise dying without issue male, Agnes, one of his coheirs, conveyed it in marriage to John Isaac, esq., of Blackmanbury, in Bridge. His descendant James, about the latter end of the reign of Henry VII., passed it to John Guldeford, esq., in whom it remained but a short time, as from that family, under Henry VIII., it passed to Sir Christopher Hales. He not long after alienated it to William Boys, esq., of Nonington, whose second son, Thomas, resided here, and died in 1599. The fee then rested in his elder brother Edward, of Fredville, till Major John Boys, of that place, in the reign of Charles II., sold it to William Turner, whose son, of the same name, died possessed of it in 1729. His son, William Turner, esq., inherited this manor on the death of his father, and was succeeded therein by his only daughter Bridget, who carried it in marriage, in 1753, to David Papillon, of Acrise, whose son afterwards possessed the same.

This parish is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sandwich. The church, dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul, is small, consisting of a body and north aisle, with two chancels, having a square tower, with battlements, at the west end. In the high chancel is a memorial for Thomas Walton, thirty-seven years rector of this church, obiit 1698; another for John Thomson, rector, who left one daughter, married to John Farnaby, son of the learned Farnaby, obiit 1661 ; arms, *two bars, a chief ermine, empaling a chevron between three balls.* Within the altar rails is a memorial for Edward Monins, gent., and Mary his wife, obiit 1647. A marble tablet for John Minet, A.M., rector of this church, obiit 1771 ; arms, *Erminois,* quartering, *barry of six, argent and gules.* Another tablet, for Francis d'Aeth, rector of this church, obiit 1784, also a memorial for William Forster, gent., of Acrise, pastor of this parish, obiit 1708. The sculptured arms of the Guldeford's formerly adorned this edifice. In the last-mentioned chancel are also several memorials for the Boteler's, of this parish. A mural monument also exists for

John Harvey, esq., of Dane court, obiit 1759, and Margaret, his wife; arms, *Harvey empaling argent, three bars gemelles, sable, over all a lion rampant, gules*, for Maud. There is another memento for Richard Harvey, of Dane court, obiit 1732; and, near the west door, the tomb of John Ruffin, gent., of Rainham, obiit 1661.

In the reign of Henry VIII. this rectory was valued in the king's books at £15 12 6, the yearly tenths being £1 11 6. There are seven acres of glebe land annexed to this living. In 1588 there were seventy-six communicants, when the estimate was £100. David Papillon, esq. of Acrise, and the earl of Guildford, presented alternately to this rectory.

In 1821 there were sixty-seven dwellings in the parish of Lamberhurst; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 209, females 181, making a total of 390 souls.

Barson is the next parish southwestward, otherwise called *Barfriston*, the latter being the proper and ancient appellation, written in Domesday survey, *Barfrestone*, but for contraction has of late times been denominated and written *Barson*. There is but one borough in this parish, viz. the borough of Barson, which contains the whole parish, the borsholder being chosen at the petty sessions held for this division of the lath of St. Augustine.

Barson lies in the open hilly downs, with which this neighbourhood abounds; they are mostly arable, the soil upon the hills being chalky, and not very fertile. In the valleys it is inclined to clay, and of course better land, though still unproductive. The court lodge and church are nearly in the centre of the parish, which formerly contained but twelve houses. This district, as well as its vicinity, is extremely healthy, instances of longevity here being very frequent and as remarkable, since, in 1700, the minister resident was buried at the age of ninety-six; the divine who preached the funeral sermon, was eighty-two; the reader of the service, eighty-seven; the parish-clerk of the latter age; the sexton was eighty-six, and his wife eighty, and several of the neighbouring parish of Coldred, who attended the funeral, were above 100 years old. In

1722 there were in this small parish, which consisted of only fifty-eight souls, nine persons whose ages amounted to 636 years.

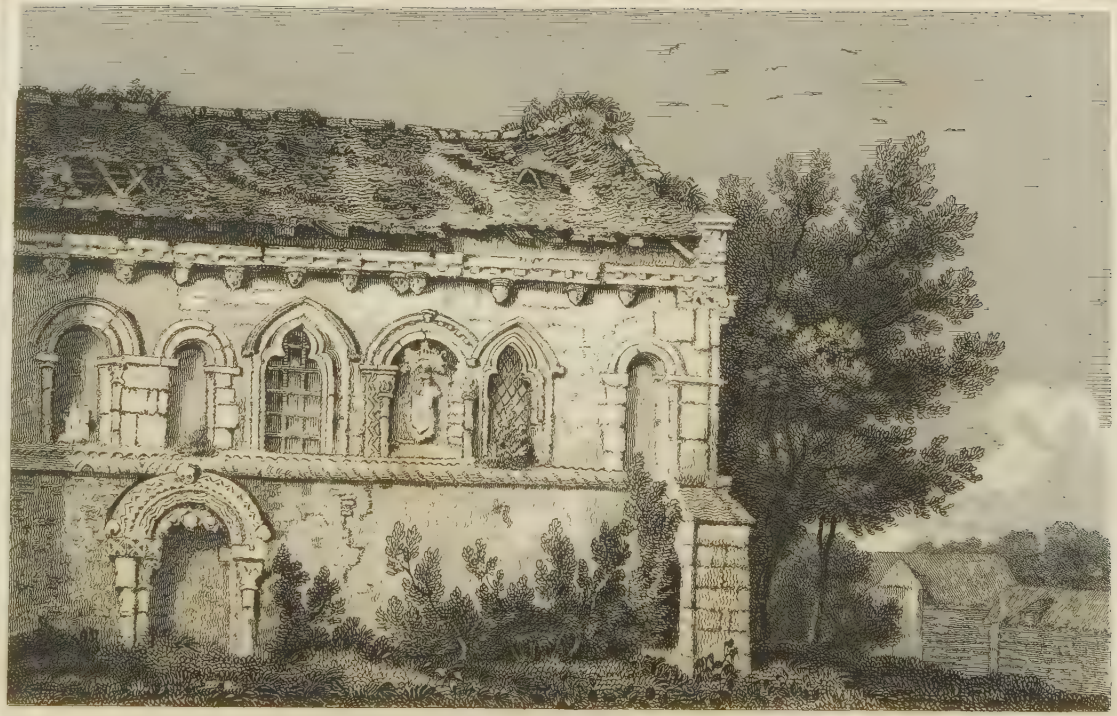
At the southern boundary of the parish are a great number of Roman *tumuli*, or barrows, which adjoin the line of intrenchments at the termination of Eythorne parish. There was, in the reign of Henry III., a family resident here, which thence derived its name. One of that line, Amicia de Barfristan, was a benefactor to the priory of Davington, as appears from the ledger-book of the same.

At the time of taking the survey of Domesday, this place was part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was therein entered. Upon the disgrace of that prelate, the lands of Barfreston were granted to Hugh de Port, by the service of performing ward for the defence of Dover castle, after which it was held of his descendant, John de St. John, in the reign of Henry III., by a family named Wyborne, one of whom, John de Wyborne, held it under Edward II. However, before the 20th of Edward III., this name had become extinct here, for it appears then to have been alienated from that line, and in the tenure of different persons, one of whom, John de Monynham, seems to have held that part of Wyborne's estate, comprehending the manor of Barfreston, which, after the heirs of Monynham had deserted their patrimony, was alienated about the latter end of the reign of Henry VI., to Sir Thomas Browne, of Beechworth castle. In his descendants this property continued down to Sir Thomas Browne, of the same place, whose lands were *disgavelled* in the reign of Elizabeth; not long after which he alienated it to Mr. Thomas Boys, of Eythorne, who removed hither, and died possessed of the same in 1599. His eldest son inherited this manor, which his heir, John Boys, esq., sold at the latter end of the reign of Charles I. to Anthony Percival, of Dover, who died in 1646, and was interred at Denton. In his heirs it remained till sold to Major Richard Harvey, of Elmington, in Eythorne. His grandson, Mr. Richard Harvey, was of Barson, and having pulled down the ancient mansion of this manor, rebuilt it in a very handsome style, and resided here. He married Elizabeth Nicholls, of Barham, by whom he had seven sons and six daughters; of the former, Richard, the eldest, was vicar of

St. Laurence, and afterwards of Eastry, who married; Henry, the second son, was an admiral, and of Walmer, who espoused Elizabeth, daughter of William Boys, esq., by whom he had four sons, and one daughter; John, the third son, was also a captain in the royal navy, of Heronden, who died, July 1794, at Portsmouth, of the wounds he had received on the glorious 1st of June preceding, which melancholy event prevented the intention of his majesty from being realized, as his purpose was to constitute him an admiral, as a reward for his gallant behaviour. He left four sons, and four daughters, of the former of whom was Henry Harvey, esq. of Heronden, and John, a captain in the navy; and, of the daughters, Mary married William Boteler, esq., of Eastry; and Fanny, Robert Curling, esq., surgeon, of Sandwich; Elizabeth and Sarah died young. Of the younger sons, Thomas, the fourth, was living in 1801. Mr. Richard Harvey, after residing here some time, alienated this estate in 1792, to John Plumptree, esq., of Fredville, who afterwards owned this property.

HARTANGER, written in Domesday *Hertange*, is a small manor in this parish, which, at the period of the Domesday survey, constituted part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was therein entered. On that prelate's disgrace, this manor devolved to the crown, being afterwards granted to Simon Fitz-Adam, by whom it was held by knight's service of Dover castle, by the service of ward for fifteen days, for the defence of the same.

Of Simon Fitz-Adam, and his heir Adam Fitz-William, this manor was afterwards held by the Pirot's; Alan Pirot died possessed of the same at the latter end of the reign of Henry I., and had for successor, Robert, whose heir was Ingelram de Fontibus. How long his heirs held this property we do not find, but, under Henry III. or Edward I., William de Hartanger possessed it, after whom it became the property of Robert de Hardres, who held it by knight's service of the honour of Clare. In the 8th of Edward II. his next successor was Reginald de Tondresley, but how long it remained in that name does not appear; however, at the latter end of the reign of Henry VI., it was in the possession of Sir Thomas Browne, of Beechworth castle. His descendant of the same name, in the reign of Elizabeth, passed it away to Francis Santon, esq., whose son and heir



Francis Santon, alienated it soon after to Edward Merriweather, second son of Edward, of Shebbertswell, who resided here, and died possessed of the estate in 1621. In his descendants it continued till about the middle of the last century, at which time it was sold to one Pot, after which Mr. William Pot, citizen and apothecary of London, gave it by will in 1691, to trustees, for them to pay £200 per annum, out of the rents and profits, to Christ's hospital, and the remaining produce to the hospital of Bethlehem, in London; in which trust this property has continued vested.

It appears, by the register of Leeds Abbey, that Sibilla de Watemle gave to the priory of Leeds, in free and perpetual alms, *inter alia*, the tithe of Hartangre; which gift was confirmed by Archbishop Theobald, in the reign of King Stephen.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a small building, of great antiquity; the exterior is most curiously adorned with carved work in stone, having circular arches and windows, especially at the east extremity; the west end has a fine circular arch, with Saxon ornaments, and zigzag borders; and withinside is another arch, between the body and the chancel. This church, so well known to every lover of antiquity, and of which so many engravings have been executed, affords a most curious specimen of Anglo-Saxon architecture. It consists of a body and chancel, separated by a circular arch, supported by two wreathed pillars; a row of singular uncouth heads appear round the cornice, a beautiful circular window being at the east end; and at the foot of the wall are two circular arches, forming recesses, probably for places of sepulture for the founders of the church. The grand south entrance, now partly concealed by a modern porch, is most curiously sculptured with rows of figures of various kinds. Niches for statues also completely environ this singularly interesting structure.

There is no steeple, a small wooden turret having been taken down some years ago. In the chancel exists a mural monument for Thomas Boys, gent. of Barfreston, of the family of Fredville, obt. 1599, who bore for his arms, *Or, a griffin segreant sable, within a bordure gules.* Another mural monument adorns the interior of the building, for Robert Ewell, rector and patron, and one of the six preachers of Canterbury cathedral, obt. 1638. There is also a grave-stone for George Smith, forty-one years

rector of this parish, obt. 1752; several of the family of Boys's were also buried in this edifice.

The advowson of this church, which ranks a rectory, was anciently appendant to the manor, but under Henry VIII., it had become an advowson, being then in the possession of John Boys, of Denton.

This rectory in the king's books stood at £7 14, but was afterwards a discharged living, of the clear yearly value of about £30. In 1588 the estimation was 60s., there being then forty communicants; in 1640 the value was 50s., the number of communicants being the same.

This living was augmented by the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty in £200 a year, the same sum being also added thereto by the president and fellows of St. John's college; with which the dwelling and appurtenances were newly built, and a barn, stable, and lands purchased in the parish of Alkham, of the annual rent of £30.

There is a glebe belonging to this benefice, of seven acres, one of which is in Nonington; whereas, in the king's books, it is stated that ten acres of glebe land appertained to this living.

In 1821, there were sixteen dwellings in the parish of Barson; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 52, females 63, making a total of 115 souls.

TILMANSTONE lies northeastward from Barson, the parish of Eythorne only intervening. It is written *Tilemanestone* in Domesday, but is now usually pronounced *Tilmeston.*

There are two boroughs in this parish, viz. TILMANSTONE and CRAYTHORNE. The borsholder for Tilmanstone borough is chosen at North court, and comprehends within its bounds the church and all the northern part of the parish, viz. the Upper street, and the three manor houses of Dane court, North court, and South court. The borsholder for Craythorne borough is chosen at Eastry court, and comprises in its bounds the southern part of this parish, viz. Lower street and Barfield farm; over all of which the manor of Eastry claims paramount.

THIS PARISH is pleasantly situated in a open country; the soil, like that of the neighbourhood, is variable, and the vallies

more fertile than the elevated grounds, the same being generally thin and light. The northern part of this parish is more prolific than that to the south, the whole containing upwards of 1,100 acres of land, being accounted extremely healthful, which appears from the parish registers, wherein the ages of numbers of persons buried here are from 80 to 100 years, on an average; the births exceeding the burials by upwards of one third in number.

There are two streets or villages, called Upper and Lower Street, in the former of which stands the church. The parish is long and narrow, being about a mile from east to west, and nearly two miles contrariwise. It is rather an unfrequented district, and contains nothing remarkable. No fair is held here.

William Boys, esq. of Nonington, resided in this parish in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and served in Parliament for Queenborough.

THIS PLACE was part of the ancient possessions of the see of Canterbury, and at the survey of Domesday was held of the archbishop by knight's service, by William Folet. On that name becoming extinct, the property appears to have been held in separate moieties; and in the reign of Henry III. was in the possession of Sir John de Tiddenden and Sir Roger de Tilmanstone, who held it of the archbishop by knight's service.

THAT PART which was held by the former, afterwards descended to William de Tiddenden, who died, possessed of the property, in the beginning of the reign of Edward III. It then appears to have devolved to the possession of one Warden. THE OTHER PART, on the death of Sir Roger de Tilmanstone, in the reign of Edward I., was carried by Matilda his sister and coheir, in marriage, to John de Sandhurst, who made a claim of liberties for this manor in the reign of Edward I., and his son, John de Sandhurst, of Knolton, succeeded him, and died, possessed of the same, in the reign of Edward III.

SUBSEQUENT TO THE ABOVE PERIOD, *these moieties*, from their respective situations, acquired the names of the MANORS OF NORTH and SOUTH COURT; THE FORMER OF WHICH was conveyed by Christian, daughter and heir of John de Sandhurst, in marriage to William Langley, of Warwickshire; whose son, William de Langley, was afterwards, in her right, of Knolton. It then passed, in like manner as Knolton, to the Peyton's; in

which name it continued till Sir Thomas Peyton, bart. alienated it to Sir John Narborough, an admiral, whose daughter and at length sole heir, Elizabeth, married Sir Thomas d'Aeth, bart., who succeeded to this manor; and their grandson, Sir Narborough d'Aeth, bart. of Knolton, was afterwards owner of the same. A court-leet and court-baron is held for this manor.

The manor of South Court was the *other moiety* of the manor of Tilmanstone, which, as above mentioned, was held by the Tiddenden's, and afterwards devolved to the name of Warden, whence it was at length alienated to the White's. John White, merchant of Canterbury, subsequently knighted, held it in the reign of Henry VI., one of whose descendants sold it to a Cox; and Michael of that name, in the 8th of Henry VII., did homage to Archbishop Moreton for the same. His successor, Thomas, was customer of Sandwich, under Henry VIII., who passed the estate by sale to Richard Fogge, esq. of Danes court, who died, possessed of it, in 1598, when his descendant, not long after, alienated it to the Peyton's, of Knolton. Since that period, this manor has continued in the same title of ownership as the manor of North court, last described, down to Sir Narborough d'Aeth, bart. of Knolton, the possessor of both these estates.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

North and South courts are strongly connected as to their manorial rights and jurisdictions, as appears by the warrants delivered to the bailiff to convene the tenants; all of whom are summoned to both courts, two in each only excepted. Their claim is over the largest portion of Tilmanstone borough, and some lands contiguous in Eastry. The manor-house of the latter is at present a neat cottage, situated close to the church-yard; some stone walls of the ancient mansion, and the ruins of a barn, still remaining; the demesne lands are laid to the farm of North court, which is a good farm-house.

Dane court is a manor and seat in this parish, which had anciently the same owners as North court, and as such passed from the Tilmanstone's to the Sandhurst's, and thence by marriage to the Langley's. From that line it went to the Fennel's, who sold it to the Cox's; a descendant of which name, Thomas, the customer, died, possessed of it, in 1559. His heirs, in the 2d of Elizabeth, alienated it to Richard Fogge, esq. of Brabourne, grandson of Sir John, of Repton, who was afterwards

of Dane court; and in his descendants it continued down to his great great grandson, Richard Fogge, mariner. He, about 1724, sold it to Major Richard Harvey, of Elmington, who rebuilt this seat, and removed hither; and his grandson, the Rev. Richard Harvey, vicar of Eastry, alienated it, in 1763, to Gervas Hayward, gent. of Sandwich, who bore for his arms, *Argent on a pale sable, three crescents of the field.* He, in 1765, passed it away by sale to Michael Hatton, esq., a commissary of the army, who afterwards resided here, and greatly improved this seat. He died in 1776, leaving Alice his wife surviving, who resided here till her death, in 1791, upon which the property went, by Mr. Hatton's will, to her niece, Mrs. Hannah Lilly, who, in 1795, conveyed it in marriage to Rawson Aislabye, esq., who owned the same. A court-baron is held for this manor.

It appears that Dane court was once held of the manor of Knolton, but this has not been acknowledged for a considerable length of time.

The manors of Great and Little Barville are two estates in the southern part of this parish, the original name having been *Barfield.* They appear anciently as ranking one and the same estate, which was, in the reign of Edward IV., in the possession of the family of the Harvey's, being the first place we find mentioned as their residence and possession in this county. Thence the several branches distributed themselves throughout Kent, and more especially in the eastern parts. The armorial bearings assumed by the several branches of the Harvey's are those of the female ancestor, Awstyn, or Astyn, viz. *Argent on a chevron, gules, three crescents, or between three lions, gambs erased, sable armed of the second.* Richard Harvey died, possessed of Barfield, in 1472, under Edward IV.; as did his son John, of Barfield, in 1479. He left two sons, Robert and Nicholas, who, after the death of their father, possessed it in moieties; the former died in 1518, and by will directed his moiety to be sold; after which there is no further mention of them here, the pedigree of the family describing Robert Harvey, son of Robert above mentioned, as of Norborne. Most probably this manor was at the above-mentioned time divided, but in what proportions does not appear, between these two brothers, Robert and Nicholas Harvey, and afterwards took the names of Great and Little Barville. By this, however, it certainly

appears, that the former was the largest portion of the two. Great Barville, soon after the above period, became the property of the family of the Crayford's, of Mongeham; one of whom, in the reign of Elizabeth, purchased Little Barville of the heirs of the Pix's, or Picks's, several of which name are mentioned in the register of this parish, but without any distinction, as gentlemen; and thus these estates became again united in the possession of one and the same owner.

In the descendants of the Crayford's this estate, now known by the name of Barfield only, and in one occupation, continued till the reign of Charles II., when William Crayford, dying without issue, devised it to his wife Ursula, who remarrying Nordash Rand, esq., entitled him to the possession of the same. He, in 1720, sold it to Sir Robert Furnese, bart. of Waldershare; in whose descendants it continued down to Catherine sister and coheir of his son, Sir Henry, who conveyed it in marriage, first, to Lewis earl of Rockingham; and secondly, to Francis earl of Guildford, to whom, on her death, in 1766, she devised this estate. He died possessed of it in 1790, and his grandson, the Right Hon. the Earl of Guildford, was afterwards owner of this estate. The buildings of Little Barville are pulled down, but the site is still to be traced in a rough pasture-ground, on the north side of the highway, (formerly called St. Margaret's street,) leading from Dover to Knolton. Part of the lands of this estate are said, in ancient records, to be within the *district of Stormeston,* in this parish, but no such name is known, or has ever been heard of, by the inhabitants of the district or its neighbourhood.

THIS PARISH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sandwich. The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, is a small mean building, consisting of a body and chancel, with a very low square tower at the west end. In the chancel, against the east wall, is a brass plate, on which are the figures of a man and woman; upon the side of the former appears one son, and on that of the latter, three daughters, all kneeling; with the arms of the *Fogge's,* and *a label of three points empaling Sackville, with a crescent* for Richard Fogge, esq., father of fourteen children, and eminent for his poetry and skill in heraldry, obt. 1680. A grave-stone exists here for Jane, daughter of the Rev. Strangford Viol, late

rector of Upminster, in Essex, and Jane his wife, daughter of Richard Fogge, esq. obt. 1719. In the east window are three shields of painted glass: the first, the field being gone, *on a chief azure, three lions rampant, or:* on the sides appear, in black letters, *Sir John Lisle Knight.* The field was probably *or;* second, *gules a cross argent;* third, *azure, a bend cotized argent, between six martlets of the second,* under which was formerly this legend, *Orate p aia Wi Tonge,* now nearly obliterated. In the north window are four figures; first, a man in armour, with a shield, bearing a *plain cross,* on his breast, in the attitude of thrusting a lance through the jaws of a beast, stretched at his feet, probably designated for St. George; the second represents a young man crowned, holding a globe and sceptre in his hands, and seemingly weeping; and the fourth is an old man kneeling, full bearded, on whose shoulder appears a child, holding a globe and sceptre, to which he is looking up. In the south window is the figure of a man bearded, wearing a Palmer's bonnet, and holding a staff, while in his right hand is a book.

In the body of the church appears a marble monument, against the north wall, near the chancel, and an inscription, signifying, that in the vault beneath are deposited the remains of Michael Hatton, esq. of Dane court, obt. 1776; as well as Mrs. Alice Hatton, his widow, obt. 1791: the arms are, *Azure a chevron between three wheat-sheaves, or empaling gules, three lilies argent, stalked and leaved, vert.* A monument also exists, against the same wall, for Thomas Michael Tierney, late student of Brazen Nose college, Oxford: and in the windows of this edifice were formerly much more painted glass, consisting of figures and coats of arms.

This church was anciently part of the possessions of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, to whom it was appropriated by Archbishop Langton, about the end of the reign of King John. It so remained until the dissolution, under Henry VIII.; since which, both the appropriation and advowson have continued vested in the see of Canterbury.

The vicarage of Tilmanstone was valued in the king's books at £7 12 6; being afterwards a discharged living, of the yearly value of £45. In 1588 there were 109 communicants; and in 1640 the same number, when the estimation was £50. In 1740

there were the same number of communicants, but the value had increased to £60.

In 1821, there were forty-one dwellings in the parish of Tilmanstone; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 151, females 152, making a total of 303 souls.

KNOLTON lies the next parish westward from Tilmanstone, written in Domesday survey *Chenoltone*, in other ancient records *Cnoltone*, and afterwards both *Knoldon* and *Knolton*, having derived its name from the situation on the knoll of a hill. There is no borsholder appointed for this district.

THE PARISH of Knolton is very small, containing only 432 acres, nearly the whole of which, except a few acres, are the property of the D'Aeth family, whose mansion therein was beautifully situated on the knoll of a hill, commanding an extensive prospect over the neighbouring country, and of the adjacent Channel. The house, which is large, was built by Sir Thomas Peyton, the south part still remaining, but the centre of the front wing has been modernised. The offices, which are extremely commodious, were built by Sir Thomas d'Aeth, in 1715. In the old part of the dwelling are the arms of the Peyton's, on a chimney-piece, and the same again empaling Calthorpe, in every window, which sufficiently point out the builder; but the arms of Langley are no where to be found in this mansion. The park, wherein the structure stands, contains about 200 acres. It is finely wooded, and the soil, as well as the rest of the parish, extremely healthy and dry, though being rather inclined to chalk, is not very fertile. The lands are chiefly arable, and unenclosed; the hills and dales are frequent, and continue throughout; the whole arrangement forming a most agreeable prospect to the eye. Adjoining the gardens, at the back of the mansion, is the church and parsonage-house; and beyond, on the declivity of the hill, northward, near the bridleway to Eastry and Deal, is a small parcel of coppice wood. Besides the above two dwellings, there is one more farm-house. No fair is held here.

At the survey of Domesday this manor was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of

whose lands it was therein entered. Upon the disgrace of that prelate, the *seignory* of this manor appears to have been granted to William de Albineto, or Albini, surnamed *Pincerna*, who had followed the Conqueror from Normandy. Of his heirs it was afterwards held by knight's service, by the family of Perot, or Pyrot, as the name was sometimes spelt; one of whom, Alanus Pyrot, held it in the reign of Henry III. by knight's service, of the countess of Eu, to whom the *seignory paramount* of the same had descended from William de Albineto, before mentioned. Sir Ralph Pyrot, his successor, was possessed of this manor in the ensuing reign of Edward I., and, in the 13th year of the same prince, he had a grant, dated, at Acton Burnel, October 4, of *free warren* in all his demesne lands of Cnoltone, among others in different counties.

In his descendants, who bore for their arms, *Argent, a fess sable in chief, three escallops;* as appears by the coat quartered with those of Langley on the font, and in the windows of this church, it continued down to Henry Perot, who was of Knolton, and served the office of sheriff at the latter end of the 6th year of that reign, though, previous to its conclusion, John de Sandhurst appears to have been lord of the same. He left an only daughter and heir, Christian, who married William de Langley, by which means William Langley, their son, became entitled to this inheritance. He resided at Knolton, and was several times sheriff of this county, as were his descendants, afterwards residents at Knolton, in whom it continued down to Edward Langley, esq., of Knolton, who died *s. p.* The arms of Langley were, *per pale and jess, indented, azure, and or*, and are carved on the stone roofing of the cloisters at Canterbury, as well as painted on the glass of the windows of the church of Knolton. They were also formerly in the windows of the several churches of Sheldwich, Tilmanstone, and Nonington, those in the latter having thereon, *a bend, compony, argent and gules.* Their arms were also over the doorway of the mansion at Knolton, which was re-edified by one of that name, but there are now no vestiges of the same remaining. Edward Langley married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Peyton, of Peyton hall, and Iselham, in Cambridgeshire, whom he left surviving, and possessed of this property. She afterwards remarried Sir Edward Ringeley, who

inherited the same in her right, and upon her death, this manor, with other estates in the county, became the property of her brother, Sir Robert Peyton, of Iselham, as heir general at law of her first husband, above mentioned. This family derived its descent from William de Mallett, a noble Norman, who came to England with the Conqueror, and his eldest son and heir, John, was lord of the manor of Peyton hall, in Suffolk, who left Robert de Ufford, his eldest son, ancestor to the earls of Suffolk. Peter, was his second son; and John, his third, whose son and heir was Sir John de Peyton, of Stoke Neyland, from whom, by direct descent, in the fifth degree, was John Peyton, esq. of Peyton hall and Wyken, who died in the reign of Henry VI., having married Grace, daughter and heir of William Langley, as above mentioned. The Peyton's, of Knolton, bore for their arms, *Sable, a cross engrailed, or;* in the first quarter, *a mullet pierced, argent*, being a difference to show their descent from the third house of this family.

Sir Robert Peyton died in 1518, leaving two sons; Sir Robert, who was of Iselham, ancestor of the Peyton's, baronets of Cambridgeshire; and Sir John Peyton, to whom he gave Knolton, and his other estates in this county.

The latter afterwards resided at Knolton, as did his grandson Sir Samuel Peyton, who was created a baronet in the 10th of James I. His eldest son, Sir Thomas, of Knolton, dying in 1684, was buried in Westminster abbey, having been thrice married: by the second union, with Cecilia, widow of Sir William Swan, he left a son, Thomas, who died in 1667, during his father's lifetime, and four daughters, who became his coheirs. Dorothy married Sir Basil Dixwell, bart.; Catherine espoused Sir Thomas Longueville, bart.; Elizabeth was united to William Longueville, esq., of the Inner Temple; and Esther was wife of Thomas Sandys, esq. After Sir Thomas Peyton's death, his widow remarrying, the possession of this estate passed to the hands of his executor, and he demised it for a term of years to Edward lord Wotton, who resided on this estate, and at his death he devised his interest therein to his wife, Lady Margaret Wootton.

Sir T. Peyton's four daughters and coheirs joined with their trustee in the sale of this manor, to Sir John Narborough,

admiral of the English fleet, who was by James II. created a baronet, and bore for his arms, *gules, a chief ermine.* He had two sons, Sir John, and James, who were both lost with their father-in-law, admiral Sir Cloudesley Shovel, on the rocks of Scilly, when several other ships of the squadron foundered, during the voyage from Toulon, October 22, 1707. On their deaths, unmarried, Elizabeth, their only sister and heir, entitled her husband, Thomas d'Aeth, esq. of North Cray, to the possession of this manor and estate. He was descended from William d'Aeth, of Dartford, and principal of Staples Inn in the reigns of Edward VI., Queen Mary, and Elizabeth; and bore for his arms, *Sable, a griffin volant, or, between three crescents argent.* He died in 1590, and was buried with his two wives, in Dartford church, and in the same parish his descendants afterwards resided, till Thomas d'Aeth, before mentioned, removed to North Cray. He was subsequently, by patent, dated July 16, 1716, created a baronet, and resided at Knolton, the mansion of which he rebuilt, and died possessed of the same in 1744, leaving issue by his first wife, who died in 1721, one son, Narborough, and five daughters, and by his second wife he left one son, Francis, afterwards rector of this parish. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Narborough d'Aeth, bart., of Knolton, who married in 1738, Anne, daughter of John Clarke, esq., of Blake hall, in Essex, and died in 1773; she survived him, and left an only son and heir, Sir Narborough d'Aeth, bart., of Knolton, who possessed this estate.

A court-baron is held for this manor, which is very extensive, as it not only claims over this parish, but a great portion of Chillenden and Woodnesborough, as well as part of Eythorne and Denton.

KNOLTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sandwich. The church, dedicated to St. Clement, is a small building, consisting of one aisle and a chancel, with a wooden turret at the west end, and is very neat, being paved with black and white stone. The font is also of stone, beautifully carved, whereon are two shields bearing the arms of Langley; *per pale and fess, indented, counterchanged, or, and argent;* on two other shields, both alike, Langley quartering, first, *Argent, a fess sable in chief, three ogresses;* second, *Argent, a fess sable in chief, three escalop-*

shells, of the last; third, *Gules, a cross crosslet, argent.* On the stonework in different parts of the church, are several shields sculptured with the arms of Langley and Peyton, presenting their quarterings, whose monuments also against the walls are numerous and well preserved. Weever, speaking of an ancient tomb in this church, for one of the Ringeley family, certainly intended Langley, which tomb bore thereon his portraiture, kneeling on a cushion, the hands joined and uplifted, his hair cut round, wearing sword and spurs, and a surcoat covered with the arms of Langley, all long since destroyed. An altar marble monument is also in this church, richly sculptured, representing a ship in a storm, driving on the rocks, in memory of Sir John Narborough, bart., and James, his brother, only surviving sons of Sir John Narborough, admiral of the fleet, who were shipwrecked, as previously mentioned. The eldest son was in his twenty-third, and the younger in his twenty-second year. They bore for their arms, *Gules, a chief ermine, with the hand of Ulster for Narborough.* Here is an altar monument to the memory of Sir John Narborough, obiit 1688. Another of the same description, whereon is a medallion, elegantly sculptured with the head of a lady, being in memory of Lady Elizabeth d'Aeth, only daughter of Sir John Narborough d'Aeth, married to Sir Thomas d'Aeth: by that union she had twelve children, seven of whom survived her; she died in 1721. There are also many other monuments for the family of the D'Aeth's, and in the chancel the windows are filled with shields of arms, among which are those of the Osborne's, the Peyton's, the Calthorp's, and the Langley's, with different empalements and quarterings.

The church of Knolton, which is a rectory, was ever accounted an appendage to the manor, and so continues at the present time, Sir Narborough d'Aeth, bart., being patron thereof. It was valued in the king's books at £6 5 2½, the yearly tenths being 12s. 6½d., but it was afterwards of the yearly certified value of £56 15 11½d. In 1588 there were twenty-two communicants, when the estimate was £60. In 1640 there were twenty-nine communicants, at which period the value was £40. There are ten acres of glebe land belonging to this rectory, whereof one is in Chillenden.

In 1821 there were three dwellings in the parish of Knolton; and at the same period, when the last census of the population

was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 12, females 22, making a total of 34 souls.

CHILLENDEN, written in Domesday survey, *Cilledene*, lies the next parish westward from Knolton, taking its name from the low and cold situation it occupies. The manors of *Knolton* and *Woodnesborough* claim over part of this parish, as does that of Adisham over another portion of the same. A borsholder is appointed for this district by the justices at their petty sessions, for this division of the lath of St. Augustine.

THE PARISH OF CHILLENDEN lies dry and healthy, but is not very pleasantly situated, though surrounded by other parishes which are remarkably so. It is very small, containing only 160 acres; the whole rents, Mr. Hasted observes, did not, in his time, amount to more than £250 per annum. There are two farms, one belonging to Mr. Hammond, and the other to Sir Brook Bridges, bart. The high road from Canterbury to Deal leads through the village called Chillenden street, on the south side of which stands the church. The soil is chalky and poor, and the lands, which are arable, are open and unenclosed. A fair is held here on Whit Monday for pedlary.

This place, at the survey of Domesday, constituted part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was therein entered. Upon the disgrace of that prelate it devolved to the possession of a family which took its surname from this property; and mention is made, as early as the reign of King Henry III., of John de Chillenden, who had an interest in this place. Upon that name becoming extinct, the Baker's, of Caldham, in Capel, near Folkestone, possessed it, in whom this manor continued till the reign of Henry VI., when it passed by sale to the Hunt's, whose descendants remained entitled to the same for two or three descents, when one of them alienated it to the Gason's, of Apulton, in Ickham. They bore for their arms, *Azure, a fess cotized, ermine between three goats' heads, couped argent*, which coat was granted in the reign of Henry VIII., and in that name it continued for some time, until it was at length sold to the Hammond's, of St. Alban's, in Nonington, in whose descendants it continued

down to William Hammond, esq., of St. Alban's, who subsequently possessed the manor.

This estate pays a quit-rent to Adisham manor, of which it is held. There are no manorial rights, and it is much doubted if it ever had any claim to the reputation of a manor.

This parish is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Bridge. The church, dedicated to All Saints, appears very ancient, though small, having a square tower at the west end, and consists of a body and one chancel, while in the windows are the remains of very fine painted glass. There is a handsome zigzag moulding, and a circular arch over the north door, as well as another, though much plainer, over the south entrance; however, the structure contains nothing more worthy of notice.

This church was part of the possessions of the priory of Leeds, in which it continued till the dissolution under Henry VIII., when it devolved to the crown, where the patronage remained.

This rectory was valued in the king's books at £5, and was subsequently a discharged living of about the clear yearly value of £26. In 1588 it was estimated at £40, the communicants being seventy-seven. In 1640 the value was the same, and the communicants seventy. There are three acres of glebe land appertaining to this living. The incumbent built a good parsonage house on the site of the old dwelling. There is no land in this parish exempt from the payment of tithes.

In 1821, there were twenty-six dwellings in the parish of Chillenden; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 74, females 73, making a total of 147 souls.

THE NEXT PARISH northeastward from Knolton is EASTRY, which, at the survey of Domesday, was of such considerable account, as not only to confer its name, as it still does, to the hundred, but to the largest portion of the lath wherein it stands, now called the lath of St. Augustine. There are two boroughs in this parish, viz. the borough of Hardenden, within the upper half hundred of Downhamford, comprehending the districts of Hardenden, Selson, and Skrinkling; and the borough of

Eastry, the borsholder of which is chosen at Eastry court, and comprises all the rest of the parish, excepting that portion which lies in the borough of Felderland, within this parish.

The parish of Eastry is a healthy and pleasant situation, extending two miles and a half from north to south, and about one mile and a half the other direction. The village is situated on a pleasant eminence, almost in the centre of the parish, presenting a very picturesque appearance from many points of view. The principal street is called Eastry street, from which branch off Mill street, Church street, and Brook street. In Mill street is a handsome edifice, being a house of industry for the poor of the several united parishes of Eastry, Norborne, Betshanger, Tilmanstone, and many others. In Church street, on the east side, stands the church, with the court lodge and parsonage adjoining the churchyard, as also the vicarage. In Brook street is a neat modern house, which was the residence of William Boteler, esq., and another belonging to Mr. Thomas Rammell. Thomas Boteler died, possessed of this place, in 1651, and left three sons, the youngest of whom, Richard, was of Brook street, and died in 1682, whose great grandson, William Boteler, esq. was of the same place. He was twice married, and by his first wife left one son, and by his second, five sons and three daughters, having borne for his coat of arms, *Argent, on three escutcheons, sable three covered cups, or;* which coat was granted to his ancestor, Richard Boteler, esq. of Hernden, by Cooke, Clarenceux at arms in 1589. Mr. Boteler, of Eastry, was the last surviving male of this family, both being of Hernden and Brook street.

At the south-east boundary of this parish lies the hamlet of Updown, adjoining Ham and Betshanger; in the former of which parishes some account has already been given. At the southern bounds, adjoining Tilmanstone, lies the hamlet of Wendestone; and on the western side is the borough of Hernden, which, although in this parish, is, notwithstanding, within the hundred of Downhamford and manor of Adisham. In the southern part is Skrinkling, or Shingleton, as it is now called, and the hamlet of Hernden. At the northern part of this borough lie the hamlets and estates of Selson, Wells, and Gore; and towards the northern boundary of the parish, on the road to Sandwich, is the hamlet of Statenborough; whence, at

a small distance, is that part of the borough of Felderland, or Fenderland, as it is called, within this parish, adjoining the road branching off to Word, where stands a small seat, once the property of Mrs. Dare, who resided in that mansion.

Round the village the lands are, for a little distance, towards Statenborough, enclosed by hedges and trees, but the residue of the parish is in general an open unenclosed country, consisting of arable land. The soil towards the north is the most fertile, that in the other parts being thin, and much inclined to chalk, except in the bottoms, where it is a stiff clay. This parish presents a continued inequality of hill and dale, the lands fetching, on an average, a rental of 15s. an acre. There is no wood throughout this district, which contains about 2650 acres; the yearly rents being assessed to the poor at £2,679.

At the south of the village is a large pond, called Butsole; adjoining which, on the east side, is a field belonging to Brook Street estate, called the Butts; whence it is conjectured that butts were formerly erected there for the inhabitants to practise archery. A fair is held here, annually, for cattle, pedlary, and toys, on the 1st of September.

In 1792, Mr. Boteler, of Brook street, discovered, on digging a cellar in the garden of a cottage, situated eastward of the highway leading from Eastry to Butsole, *an ancient burial ground*, used as a place of sepulture at the latter period of the Roman Empire in Britain, having been, most probably, for the inhabitants of this parish and the places contiguous thereto. He caused several graves to be opened, and found, with the skeletons, *fibulæ*, heads, knives, *umbones* of shields, and in one, a glass vessel. From other skeletons dug up in the gardens, nearer the cross, the ground of which has since been covered with houses, it is conjectured that the heaps of earth or barrows that formerly remained over them, extended to the cross, the graves being found very thick, in rows parallel to each other, in a direction from east to west.

Saint Ive's well, mentioned by Nierembergius in his Historia de Miraculis Naturæ, we find, in Gale's Scriptores, was at a place called Estre, and afterwards Plassiz, near St. Ive's, in Huntingdonshire; but no tradition has ever been found concerning it in this parish.

This place gave birth to Henry de Eastry, who was originally

a monk, and afterwards prior of Christ church, in Canterbury; who, for his learning, as well as worth, became an ornament not only to the society over which he presided, but to his country in general. He remained prior thirty-seven years, and died, far advanced in life, A.D. 1222.

EASTRY, in the time of the Saxons, appears to have constituted part of the royal domains; and Simon of Durham, monk and precentor of that church, in his History, styles it *villa regalis, quæ vulgari dicitur Easterige pronuncione,* (the royal vill or manor which, in the vulgar pronunciation, was called *Easterige,*) which demonstrates the ancient preeminence and rank of this place; since these *villæ regalis* or *regiæ,* as Bede calls them, of the Saxons usually occupied the spot where, in former ages, the Roman stations had existed, and conferring name to both the lath and hundred wherein it is situated, that circumstance corroborates the superior consequence in which Eastry was then held.

Egbert, king of Kent, was in possession of this district about the year 670, at which period his two cousins, Ethelred and Ethelbright, sons of his father's elder brother Ermenfrid, who had been intrusted to his care, were, according to ancient writers, murdered in his palace here, through the persuasion of one Thunnor, a flattering courtier, lest they should disturb him in the possession of his crown. After the perpetration of the deed, Thunnor, it is said, buried them in the king's hall, under the cloth of estate; whence, as tradition reports, their bodies were afterwards removed to a small chapel belonging to the palace, being first interred under the altar there, and then, with much pomp, removed to Ramsey abbey. To expiate the king's guilt, according to the custom of those times, he gave to Domneva, called also Ermenburga, sister of the murdered princes, a sufficient quantity of land, in the isle of Thanet, whereon to found a monastery.

How long this property continued among the royal domains, we do not find, but previous to the termination of the Saxon heptarchy, THE MANOR OF EASTRY was become part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury; where it remained till 811, when Archbishop Wilfrid exchanged it with his convent of Christ church, for their manor of Bourne; since which period it has been called *Bishopsbourne.*

In 979, King Egelard, usually called Ethelred, increased the estates of this church, by giving to the same the lands of his inheritance in Estrea, free from all secular service and fiscal tribute, except the repelling of invasions, and repairing of bridges and castles, usually styled the *trinoda necessitas;* and in the possession of the prior and convent above mentioned this manor continued at the taking of the survey of Domesday, being entered therein under the general title of lands appertaining to that fraternity.

In the 10th of Edward II., the prior obtained a grant of *free warren* in all his demesne lands; about which time this property was valued at £65 3; after which, King Henry VI., in his 28th year, confirmed the above liberty, and granted a market, to be held weekly at Eastry, and an annual fair, on the day of St. Matthew. In that state it continued till the dissolution of the priory, under Henry VIII., who, in his 33d year, settled it on his new created dean and chapter of Canterbury. A court-leet and court-baron is held for this manor.

The mansion is large, partly ancient, as well as modern, having at different times undergone great alterations. In the south wall are the letters T. A. N., in flint, being the initials of Thomas and Anne Nevison. Mr. Isaac Bargrave, father of the lessee, new fronted the house; and the latter, in 1786, put the whole in complete repair, in doing which he pulled down a considerable part of the ancient structure, consisting of stone walls of great strength and thickness, bringing to view some Gothic arched doorways of stone, whereby the house was proved to have been a very ancient building. The chapel previously mentioned is at the east end of the mansion; the eastern window, consisting of three compartments, being still visible, though the spaces are filled up, the same having been for many years converted into a kitchen; however, previous to the last alteration by Mr. Bargrave, the whole fabric remained entire.

At this mansion, then in the hands of the prior and convent of Christ church, Archbishop Thomas Becket, after his flight from Northampton, in 1164, concealed himself for eight days, and thence embarked at Sandwich, for France.

Isaac Bargrave, esq., lessee, resided at the court lodge, whose ancestors had been for many years lessees of this estate.

The Nevison's also resided for many years as lessees at the

court lodge of Eastry. They were originally of Brigend, in Wetherell, in Cumberland, and bore for their arms, *Argent, a chevron between three eagles, displayed azure.* Many of this family are interred in the church of Eastry.

The family of *Bargrave*, otherwise *Bargar*, was originally of Bridge, and subsequently of the adjoining parish of Patrixbourne, where John Bargrave, eldest son of Robert, built the seat of Bifrons, and resided there. Isaac, the sixth son of Robert, and younger brother of John, who built the above mansion, was ancestor of the Bargrave's, of Eastry; he was s. t. p., dean of Canterbury, a man of strict honour and high principles of loyalty, for which he suffered the most cruel treatment. He died in 1642, having married, in 1618, Elizabeth, daughter of John Dering, esq. of Egerton. Their descendant, Isaac, was an eminent solicitor in London, from which profession he retired, and resided at Eastry court, having married Sarah, eldest daughter of George Lynch, m. d. of Canterbury. They bear for their arms, *Or, on a pale gules, a sword, the blade argent, ; anelled, or, on a chief vert three bezants.*

Shrinkling, or Shingleton, the former being its original name, though now quite lost, is a small manor at the south-west boundary of this parish, adjoining to Nonington. It is within the borough of Heronden, or Hardonden, as it is now called, and as such, lies within the upper half hundred of Downhamford. This manor had anciently owners of the same name; one of whom, Sir William de Scrinkling, held it in the reign of Edward I., and was succeeded by Sir Walter his son, who held it, by knight's service, of Hamo de Crevequer; in which name it continued till the 20th of Edward III.

Soon after the above period, it seems to have been alienated to William Langley, of Knolton; from which name it passed, in like manner as Knolton, to the Peyton's and Narborough's, and thence by marriage to Sir Thomas d'Aeth, whose grandson, Sir Narborough, of Knolton, was afterwards entitled to this property.

There was a *chapel* belonging to this manor, the ruins of which are still visible in the adjoining wood, having been esteemed a chapel of ease to the church of Eastry, and appropriated with the same, by Richard, Archbishop Becket's successor, to the almonry of the priory of Christ church. But the

chapel itself appears to have become desolate many years before the dissolution of the priory, most probably soon after the family of Scrinkling became extinct. This chapel stood in Shingleton wood, near the south-east corner, the foundations of which have been traced, though level with the surface, and not easily discernible. There is now on this estate only one house, built within memory, previous to which there was only a solitary barn, without a remnant of the ancient mansion existing.

Heronden, otherwise Hardenden, but now generally entitled *Hernden*, is a district in this parish, situated about a mile northward from Shingleton, within the borough of its own name; the whole of which is within the upper half hundred of Downhamford. It was once esteemed a manor, though it has long lost the name, as that of Adisham claims over this estate. The mansion was anciently the residence of a family of the same name, which bore for its arms, *Argent, a heron with one talon erect, gaping for breath, sable.* There was an ancient shield in Maidstone church, quarterly Heronden as above, with *sable, three escalop-shells, two and one, argent.* One of the family of Heronden lies buried in this church; and in the time of Robert Glover, Somerset herald, his portrait and coat of arms, in brass, were remaining on his tombstone. The arms are still extant, in very old rolls and registers, in the Herald's college, where the family is styled Heronden, of Heronden, in Eastry; nor is the name less ancient, as appears by a deed which commences from the reign of Henry III., and relates to this estate and name. However, after the family had remained possessed of this property for so many years, it ultimately descended, in the reign of Richard II., to Sir William Heronden; from whom it passed, either by gift or sale, to one of the family of the Boteler's, then resident in this neighbourhood, descended from those seated at Butler's fleet, in Ash. Their ancestor, Thomas Pincerna, or Le Boteler, held this manor in the reign of King John, when his successors assumed the name of Butler or Boteler, or as they were frequently written, Botiller, having borne for their arms, *One or more covered cups differently placed, and blazoned.* In that family the estate descended to John Boteler, who lived in the reign of Henry VI., and resided at Sandwich, of which town he was several times mayor, and one of the burgesses in two Parliaments, who lies buried in St. Peter's church, in that

town. His son, Richard, who was also of Sandwich, had a grant of arms, in 1470, under Edward IV., by Thomas Holmes Norroy at arms, viz. *Gyronny of six, argent and sable, a covered cup, or between three talbots' heads, erased and counterchanged, of the field, collared gules, garnished of the third.* His great grandson, Henry Boteler, rebuilt the mansion of Heronden, to which he removed in 1572, being the last of this family who resided at Sandwich. He had the above grant of arms confirmed to him, and died in 1580, being buried at Eastry church. Richard Boteler, of Heronden, his eldest son, resided at this seat, and, in 1589, obtained a grant from Robert Cook, Clarenceux, of a new coat of arms, viz. *Argent on three escutcheons, sable three covered cups, or.* Ten years after, it appears that he wished to be considered as a descendant of the family seated at Graveney, but then extinct; and obtained, in 1599, a grant of their arms from William Dethic, Garter, and William Camden, Clarenceux, to him and his brother William, viz. *quarterly*, first and fourth; *sable three covered cups, or, within a bordure, argent*, second and third. *Argent a fess, chequy, argent and gules, in chief three cross crosslets of the last*, as appears, continues the grant, on a gravestone in Graveney church. He died in 1600, and was buried in Eastry church, leaving issue two sons, Jonathan and Thomas. Jonathan, the eldest, of Hernden, died, unmarried, possessed of this estate, in 1626, upon which it devolved to his brother Thomas, of Rowling, who removed to Hernden, and soon after alienated *that part of the estate*, since called the MIDDLE FARM, to Mr. Henry Pannell; from whom, soon afterwards, it passed to the family of the Reynolds's. From the latter name, about sixty years back, it was alienated to Mr. John Dekewer, of Hackney, who dying in 1762, devised it to his nephew, John Dekewer, esq. of the latter town.

ANOTHER PART of this *estate of Hernden*, since known by the name of THE LOWER FARM, was afterwards sold, by Thomas Boteler above mentioned, to the Capell's; from whom it passed to the name of Johnson, in which it continued till Mr. Edward Johnson alienated it to Daniel Kelly, gent. of the UPPER FARM, in Heronden. He by will, in 1724, devised it to his second son, Richard; since whose demise it has descended to his two sons, Richard and William Kelly, who ultimately possessed the same.

THE REMAINING PART of the *Hernden estate*, on which the

mansion was situated, since known by the name of Hernden, or THE UPPER FARM, remained in the possession of Thomas Boteler at the period of his death, in the year 1650, when it was ordered in his will, that it should be sold for the benefit of his surviving wife and children. Accordingly, in 1657, the property was conveyed by them to John Kelly, yeoman, of Ash, whose grandson William, of Hernden, in 1766, pulled down the ancient mansion of Hernden, and built the present handsome house on the site, which he, in 1784, alienated to John Harvey, esq. of Sandwich, then a captain in the navy, who occasionally resided there. He died of the wounds received in the glorious engagement with the French fleet, on 1st of June, 1794, having, by his will, devised this estate to his wife, Judith, for life, with remainder to his son, Henry Wise Harvey, esq., who resided there. His remains were interred in a vault in Eastry church, on the 5th of July following, having been attended to the gates of Portsmouth by Earl Howe and the principal officers of the fleet. Most of the leading inhabitants of the neighbouring town of Sandwich, where Capt. Harvey had resided, and served the office of mayor in 1774, appeared in mourning, on the day of his interment, as a mark of respect to his memory.

A seal gold ring, weighing nineteen pennyweights, with the following motto, *Do not for to repent*, and the ancient coat of arms, as before described, in the reign of Henry IV., granted to Richard Boteler, was found in the grounds of Hernden Bottom, some years back, which continued in the possession of William Boteler, of Eastry.

STATENBOROUGH, written in Domesday survey *Estenburge*, and in other ancient records *Stepenberga*, and long since *Statenborough*, is a seat on the northern confines of this parish, which, in the reign of the Conqueror, constituted part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, being held of the archbishop by knight's service; and under that title was entered in the above record. After the period alluded to it was, with Buckland and Finglesham, valued, in the time of Edward the Confessor, at 40s.

How this estate subsequently passed, we have not ascertained, until about the commencement of the reign of Henry III., when it became the property of a family which thence derived its surname, as appears by a dateless deed among the archives of St.

Bartholomew's hospital in Sandwich, whereby lands were given to it abutting on those of the heirs of Simon de Statenberg, at Statenberg. When it passed from that name, does not appear, but at the latter end of the reign of Richard II., we find a deed which makes mention of William Cook, of Stapynberge; and a portion of this estate is at the present time called Cooksborough. However, in the reign of Henry V., it was in the possession of a family called Atte Hall, which was succeeded in the same by William Bryan, gent. of Canterbury. How long it continued in this line of ownership, we have not found, but in the 2d of Richard III., A.D. 1484, it had become the property of John Kennet, gent. of Canterbury, whose son, Thomas Kennet, clerk of that place, in 1534, conveyed his interest therein to Christopher Hales, esq., the king's attorney general. His daughter and coheir, Margaret, carried the property in marriage to Ralph Dodmore, gent. of Lincoln's Inn, and they jointly, in 1557, alienated it to Saphire Paramor, yeoman, of Eastry, who was descended from a good family in this part of the county, which spread into the different parishes of Ash, St. Nicholas, Monkton, and Minster, in the Isle of Thanet, Fordwich, and Eastry, but all now extinct, many of whose pedigrees are to be found in the Heraldic Visitation of this county, A.D. 1619. They bore for their arms, *Azure, a fess embattled between three estoils of six points, or.* He died in 1591, after which it continued in the same name and family down to John Paramor, esq. of Statenborough, who died in 1750; when it descended by will, on the death of Mrs. Paramor his widow, to his three nieces and coheirs.

On a division of their estates, in 1761, this manor was allotted to the two surviving daughters, and on a future subdivision between them in 1774, that of Statenborough, with Gore, in this parish, formed a part of that share given to Jane, since deceased, whose husband, William Boys, esq. of Sandwich, was possessor of the same. Mr. Boys was descended from the eminent family of that name spread over the several parts of East Kent, but whose principal seat was at Fredville, in Nonington. William Boys, esq., was of Fredville in the reign of Henry VIII., whose fourth son was of Bekesborne, who left, among other children, Edward, ancestor of the Boys's, of Betshanger; and John, second son, of Challock, from whom came, in the fifth descent,

William Boys, esq. of Deal, who was a commodore in the navy, and lieutenant governor of Greenwich hospital. His eldest son was William Boys, esq., above mentioned, the possessor of Statenborough, a gentleman well known in the republic of letters, having been also an eminent surgeon of that town, whence he removed to Walmer. He married, first, Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Wise, merchant of Sandwich, by whom he had one son, William Henry Boys, and married, secondly, Jane, daughter of Thomas Fuller, esq., of Statenborough, and coheir of her uncle, John Paramor, esq., of that place, by which union he had nine children, eight of whom survived him. He bore for his arms, *Or, a griffin segreant, sable, within a bordure, gules*, being the coat-armour of the principal branch of this family at Fredville.

The manors of NORTH and SOUTH COURT, and also that of DANE COURT, in TILMANSTONE, claim over the hamlet of Statenborough.

This parish is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sandwich. The church, exempted from the archdeacon, is dedicated to St. Mary, being a large handsome building, consisting of a nave, two side aisles, a remarkable long chancel at the east end, and a square tower, which is very large, and contains five bells, particularly unmusical. This edifice is well kept, and neatly paved, exhibiting a noble appearance, to which the many handsome monuments wherewith it abounds, in a great measure contribute. The arch over the west door is circular, but no other part of the church demonstrates any great appearance of antiquity. In the chancel are monuments for the families of the Paramor's and Fuller's, of Statenborough, others existing also to that of the Bargrave's. Here is an elegant pyramidal tomb, whereon rests a bust and emblematic sculpture for John Broadley, gent., many years surgeon at Dover, obiit 1784, and several gravestones also remain for the Nevinson's. Beneath this chancel are two vaults for the families of the Paramor's and the Bargrave's, and in the nave is a monument for Anne, daughter of Solomon Harvey, gent. of this parish, obiit 1751, and another for William Dare, of Fenderland. Against the wall is an inscription in Latin for Drue Astley Cressemer, A.M., forty-eight years vicar of this parish, obiit 1746, who presented the communion plates to this church and that of Worth, leaving also a sum of money

to be laid out in ornamenting the same, at which period the ancient stalls that remained in the chancel were taken away, when that part of the edifice was furnished with a new ceiling, and the church otherwise much beautified. There are also monuments for several of the Boteler's, the Springett's, the Harvey's, and the Kelly's. Against the wall is an elegant memento in alta relievo, for Sarah, wife of William Boteler, and another pyramidal marble for Robert Bargrave, obiit 1779; independent of which, numerous gravestones exist, whereof the brasses have long been missing, being in memory of the Boteler's. Beneath the church are vaults for several of the above-mentioned families; and on the north side of the cemetery, numerous altar tombs for the Paramor's, and others; as well as, on the south, for the Harvey's, the Faulkner's, the Rammell's, and the Fuller's, vaults for the two latter lines, together with the Petman's, also exist here.

There were anciently blazoned in the windows of this church, these arms, *Girony of six, sable and argent, a covered cup, or, between three talbots' heads, erased and counterchanged of the field, collared, gules;* for Boteler of Heronden empaling Boteler of Graveney, *Sable, three covered cups, or, within a bordure, argent.* Boteler of Heronden, as above, quartering *three spots, ermine,* the coat of Theobald, with quartering. Several of the Frynne's, or as they were afterwards called, Friend's, who lived at Waltham in the reign of Henry VII., lie buried in this church.

In the will of William Andrewe, of this parish, dated in 1507, mention is made of Our Lady's Chapel in the churchyard of the church of Estrie.

The eighteen stalls, formerly in the chancel of the church, were for the use of the monks of the priory of Christ church, owners both of the manor and appropriation, whensoever they came to pass any time at this place, such being frequently the case, as well for country retirement, as to manage their concerns here. Those seats equally served for such ecclesiastics as might be present at divine service, all such personages, in those times, sitting in the chancels of churches, distinct from the laity.

The church of Eastry, with the chapels of Skrinkling and Worth annexed, was anciently appendant to the manor of Eastry, and appropriated by Richard, (successor to Archbishop Becket,) in the reign of Henry II., to the almonry of Christ

church. It did not, however, continue so for any length of time, as Archbishop Baldwin, successor to the primate Richard, having quarrelled with the monks on account of the foundation of his intended college at Hackington, took from them this appropriation, when it remained as a rectory at the disposal of the archbishop, till the reign of Edward III. Under that monarch, Archbishop Simon Islip, with the king's licence, again restored and annexed it to the priory. On the dissolution of that establishment, in the reign of Henry VIII., this advowson of the vicarage of the church of Eastry was surrendered to the king, in whose hands it remained but a short period, as that monarch settled it on his new founded dean and chapter of Canterbury, who thus became owners of this appropriation, but the advowson of the vicarage continued part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, and has so remained.

The parsonage is entitled to the great tithes of this parish, and that of Worth; nine acres of glebe land in Eastry, Tilmanstone, and Worth, also belonging to this living.

THERE IS A SMALL MANOR appendant, called THE MANOR OF THE AMBRY, OR ALMONRY OF CHRIST CHURCH, the quit-rents of which are very inconsiderable.

The parsonage house is large and ancient; in the old parlour window is a shield of arms, being those of Partheriche empaling quarterly Line and Hamerton. The parsonage is of the annual rent of about £700. The countess Dowager of Guildford became entitled to the lease of this living, by the will of her husband, and since her death, the interest became vested in her younger children.

The vicarage of Eastry, with the chapel of Worth annexed, are valued in the king's books at £19 12 1, and the yearly tenths at £1 19 2½. In 1588 the estimate was £60, communicants 335. In 1640 there were the same number of communicants, when the valuation was £100. The ancient pension of £5 6 8, formerly paid by the priory, is still disbursed to the vicar, by the dean and chapter, as well as an augmentation of £14 13 4 yearly, from the lessee of the parsonage, by a covenant in his lease.

The vicarage house is built close to the farm-yard of the parsonage, the land allotted thereto being trifling, not even sufficient for a tolerable garden. The foundations of the house are

ancient, having probably constituted part of the original structure in the endowment of the vicarage in 1367.

In 1821 there were 163 dwellings in the parish of Eastry; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 551, females 511, making a total of 1062 souls.

Woodnesborough, or *Winsborough*, as it is usually called, lies the next parish northward from Eastry, being written in the survey of Domesday, *Wanesberge*. It derived its name, according to Verstegan, from the Saxon idol, Woden, (and is spelt by some writers, *Wodensborough*,) from his place of worship having existed here; however that may be, the termination of the word *berge*, or borough, shews the district to be of very remote antiquity.

Part of this parish, over which the manor of Boxley claims, is within the jurisdiction of the justices of the town, and port of Sandwich, and liberty of the Cinque Ports, the residue being in the hundred of Eastry, and jurisdiction of the county of Kent.

There are three boroughs in this parish, viz. Cold Friday, Hamwold, and Marshborough, the borsholders of which are chosen at the petty sessions of the justices, acting at Wingham, for the east division of the lath of St. Augustine.

This parish is large, stretching two miles and a half in one direction, and about one and a half in the other. The church stands on high ground, nearly in the centre of this district, at a small distance from which is Woodnesborough hill, both serving for seamarks. This eminence is a very high mount, apparently thrown up by art, and consists of a sandy earth, which has been thought by some the identical spot whereon the idol Woden was worshipped, in the time of the Saxons, and by others is supposed to have been the burial-place of Vortimer, the Saxon king, who died in 457. Other historians, however, have conjectured that this mount was raised by the bodies of those who were slain in the battle fought at Woodnesborough, between Ceoldred king of Mercia, and Ina king of the West Saxons, in the year 715; for, according to the Saxon chronicle, Vortimer, at his death, desired that his body might be buried near the spot where the Saxons used to land, under a persuasion that his bones would

deter them from any future hostile attempts. Authors, however, differ much as to his place of interment, yet it is probable that this mount of Woodnesborough was the very spot, being near to, and plainly discernible from the *Portus Rutupinus*, which at that time was the general landing-place of the Saxons from their fleets. Seven years ago there were found, on the summit of this hill, sundry sepulchral remains, viz., a glass vessel, (afterwards engraved by Mr. Boys in his collection for Sandwich,) the head of a spear, and some fragments of Roman vessels. Much of the earth or sand was subsequently removed from the sides of this steep, but nothing further was discovered tending to elucidate antiquarian research.

At a small distance northward hence, at the bottom of a short steep hill, lies the village called Woodnesborough street, and sometimes Cold Friday street, containing about thirty or forty houses, according to Hasted. The vicarage house occupies the centre, being a new commodious building, and almost contiguous is a handsome residence, once belonging to the family of the Jull's, but now converted into a poor-house; through this street the road leads to Sandwich. Westward of the street stands the parsonage-house, late the seat of Oliver Stephens, esq., deceased, and afterwards of his widow. In addition to the manors and estates in this parish, there are several hamlets, viz. Somerfield, Barnsole, Coombe, with New Street, Great and Little Flemings, Ringlemere, and the farm of Christian's Court.

In the north-east part of the parish, the road from Eastry, by the parsonage of Woodnesborough northwestward, divides one road, which, in ancient deeds, is called Lovekys street, conducting towards Ash street; the other passes through the hamlet of Marshborough, or Stipins, to Each End and Sandwich, the two windmills, close to the entrance of the same, being within the bounds of this parish. Each, Upper Each, anciently called *Upriche*, and Each End, also named *Netheriche*, were both formerly accounted manors, and are mentioned as such in the marriage-settlement of Henry Whyte, esq., in the reign of Elizabeth. After the Whyte's, these manors passed in like manner as Grove, in this parish, to the James's. Upper Each, or Upriche, was for many years vested in the family of John Abbot, esq., of Canterbury. Each End, or Netheriche, belonged, one moiety to

the heirs or devisees of the earl of Strafford, and the other half to John Matson, esq. of Sandwich.

We conceive it must forcibly strike the reader how much this parish abounds in Saxon names: independently of that of *Wodens-borough*, the street of *Cold Friday*, previously mentioned, is certainly derived from the Saxon words, *Cola* and *Friga*, which latter was the name of a goddess, worshipped by the Saxons, from whose festival, or *Frige deag*, originated our appellation of Friday. Other places also in this parish claim their origin from the same language and venerable antiquity.

This parish contains about 3000 acres, the whole rental amounting to about £3,373 yearly revenue. It is very bare of coppice trees, the old wood so called in Ringleton being the only one contained therein. The soil of this parish is very rich and fertile, particularly for the plantation of hops, which have much increased for some years past. The middle of the parish is elevated, presenting an open country of arable common fields. West and southwestward, the lands are more enclosed by hedges, but north, and northwestward of the parsonage, towards Sandwich, they are low and wet, consisting of a large level of marsh lands, making the other parts of this parish rather unhealthy, which indeed is not very pleasant, when taken in the aggregate.

There was discovered in Ringleton field, about the year 1514, a fine gold coin, weighing about twelve shillings in worth, with a loop of the same metal whereby to suspend it; on one side was the figure of a young man in armour, wearing a helmet on his head, having a spear over his right shoulder; and on the reverse the representation of victory, with a sword in her hand, the point directed downwards.

The manor of Woodnesborough, or Shelving, constituted, at the survey of Domesday, two estates, both of which were possessed by Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands they were entered in Domesday record. Upon the disgrace of that ecclesiastic, the *seignory* of these estates was granted to the family of the Crevequer's, and made a part of their barony, which consisted of lands assigned by the Conqueror, for the assistance of that family in the defence of Dover castle, and were held of the king by barony.

Of the Crevequer's, as chief lords of the fee, these estates were again held by the family of the Malmaine's, which was suc-

ceeded in one part of the same (the manor of Woodnesborough) by one of the name of St. Leger, and in the other, then called *Selinge*, by owners of the same name. At the latter end of the reign of Henry III., Nicholas de Selinge, and the heirs of John St. Leger, as appears by the book of knight's fees, in the exchequer, held them by knight's service; the arms of St. Leger are, *Azure, a fret, argent, a chief, or*, which were formerly in the windows of the church of Hamo de Crevequer. *The portion of the former* descended to John de Shelving, for so the name as well as estate, were then denominated, who erected a mansion thereon for his residence, and died possessed of the property in the 4th of Edward III., leaving the same to his wife, Benedicta. *The portion of the latter* descended to Edward de St Leger, on whose death his son, Thomas, succeeded, and, with Benedicta de Shelving, possessed this estate, in the 20th year of that reign.

From St. Leger *the manor of Woodnesborough* passed by sale to the name of White, one of whom, Robert, died possessed of the property in the 12th of Henry VIII.; and from Shelving, *the estate of Shelving* was afterwards alienated to the Dynely's, or Dingley's, as the name was variously spelt and written. Henry Dynely possessed it in the above reign, and paid ward to Dover castle, after which their respective heirs joined in the sale of both to one Knight, from which period we find no further mention of the manor of Woodnesborough, but of that of Shelving alone, which in the beginning of the reign of Charles I. was the property of Edward Knight, gent., who died in 1632. He left two daughters his coheirs, who appear to have divided this estate between them, that part with the manor and court lodge, still retaining the name of Shelving, and the other, from its situation, being called Churchgate farm, which latter estate at length devolved to the possession of Christopher Ernest Kien, esq., of the Horse-guards, who died possessed of the same in 1744. Subsequent to that period it descended to George Cousemaker, esq., whose widow marrying Sir Thomas Pym Hales, bart., he became possessed of the same, and died in 1773, when his widow again enjoyed the property for her life, after which it descended to her son by her first husband, George Cousemaker, esq.

The manor of Shelving was soon after sold to Solomon Hougham, gent., of Sandwich, who died possessed of the property in 1658. He was a younger son of Richard Hougham, of

Weddington, in Ash, from whose youngest son descended the Hougham's, of St. Martin's, Canterbury, which branch bear for their arms, *Or, five chevrons, sable.* Solomon Hougham was succeeded by his eldest son, Richard Hougham, gent., of the same place, who died possessed of it in 1662; not long after which it appears to have passed into the possession of — Grove, gent., of Tunstall, in right of his wife, Mildred, who died in 1677. From him it passed to his grandson, Richard, formerly of Cambridge, and afterwards of the Temple, London, who dying unmarried, and having no other relations, devised this estate, among others, to Mr. William Jemmett, gent. of Ashford, and William Marshall; the latter of whom, on a division of these estates, became sole possessor of the same. A court-baron is held for this manor.

Shelving house is situated very near the church; the present building is a mean mansion, and exhibits no appearance of ever having been a dwelling of any consequence; some ancient flint foundations, have, however, been found round this edifice.

Grove is another manor, situated at no great distance north-eastward from Shelving, which, in ancient times, was held by the family of the Malmains', by ward to Dover castle, being held of the family of the Crevequer's; and in their possession it continued till the latter end of the reign of Edward II. or the beginning of Edward III. It then became the property of the Goldsborough's, and Peter of that name dying, possessed of it, in the 32d year of that reign, he had for successor, William atte Welle, of Sandwich, who died two years afterwards, when two parts of the property were escheated to the crown, and the remainder came to his widow, Agnes. She died in the 36th year of that reign, when the king became entitled to the whole of this manor, which was afterwards granted to a family of the same name; one of whom, Sir John Grove, died, possessed of it, in the reign of Henry VI., and was buried in the church of Sandwich, to which he had proved a munificent benefactor. Under a monument are his effigies, lying at full length; and on his shield, his arms, viz. *Three leaves in sinister bend, their stalks upwards, on a canton, three crescents.* After his death, this manor became the property of Sir John Whyte, who died, possessed of the same, in the 14th of Queen Elizabeth, leaving three daughters; Agnes, married to Thomas Scudamore, esq.;

Philippa, to Walter Gifford; and Jane, to Henry Ferrers. Thomas Scudamore and Agnes his wife conveyed their third part to William Fleet; as did subsequently her two sisters, their remaining two thirds, to Roger James, merchant, of the city of London. He was of Dutch parentage, and coming into England at the latter end of the reign of Henry VIII., was made denizen; Thomas James was his fourth son, who died; and John, settled at Grove, was the sixth: from William, the third, descended the James's, afterwards resident at Igtham.

In 1594, Sarah, widow of Roger James, with her two sons, Thomas and John, purchased of William Fleet, before mentioned, the remaining third portion, and thus became entitled to the whole of this manor, which, on the death of Thomas, became the property of his brother, John, who resided at Grove. His son, Henry, left four daughters coheirs, who joined in the conveyance of the whole of this property to Peter de la Pierre, or Peters, of the Black Friars, in Canterbury, where it continued till three fourths of the property were, about 1757, alienated to Mr. Thomas Alkin, of Canterbury. He, in 1773, devised his interest, after his wife's death, to his son, Thomas Verrier Alkin, clerk, and two daughters, Margaret and Susan Alkin.

The other fourth part of this manor remained in the descendants of Peter de la Pierre till, partly by marriage and sale, it became the property of Mr. Isaac Warner, merchant of Bermondsey, whose son, Simeon, conveyed it to Dr. John Fowell. He, together with the descendants of Mr. Alkin, conveyed the whole property to Mr. Henry Jessard, of Staten-borough, who alienated the same to Mr. Stephen Southerden; and he, in 1793, passed it by sale to Peter Fector, esq. of Dover. A court-baron is held for this manor.

The manor-house is old and ruinous. The ancient structure stood a little northward of the present mansion, where there is a small square plot of ground, moated round. The manor of Knolton claims over this district, which pays a castle-guard rent to Dover castle.

The ville and farm of Buckland, written in Domesday *Bocoland*, lies at a small distance southeastward from Grove manor. About the year 1074, Odo bishop of Bayeux had some interest in this place, as he then gave to St. Augustine's monastery certain tithes in the small ville of Bocklande,

whereof Roger de Malmains, after the bishop's disgrace, deprived it. From the survey of Domesday, it also appears, that the archbishop had an estate here, which was held of him by knight's service, as it was entered under that title in the record alluded to.

Of the family of the Malmains's, this estate was held by those who thence assumed their name; and in ancient deeds, of the gift of property to St. Bartholomew's hospital, mention is made of lands in this parish, abutting on those of the name of Bockland. How long they so continued, or who possessed them afterwards for a great length of time, we do not find, but in 1553, they were vested in the name of Wollet, as William Wollet, of Eastry, then died possessed of the same, who devised this manor to his son, Daniel Wollet, by the name of Buckland Barns, so that, most probably, there was then no house there. He sold this property to Thomas Appleton, of Eastry, who left two daughters coheirs; Joan, married to Thomas Boteler, gent. of Hernden; and Elizabeth, to Thomas Berry, gent. of Canterbury, which latter possessed the property in right of his wife. He sold this estate to Sir Samuel Peyton, bart. of Knolton, who held it in 1622; after which, the next owners we find mentioned were the Barnes's, as, in 1750, Elizabeth Barnes possessed this manor. She devised it by will to Mr. Rich, of London, whose widow Elizabeth possessed it for her life; but the reversion was purchased by Samuel Whitbread, esq. of London, who sold it to Mr. John Bushell, of Ash, since deceased, whose heirs afterwards possessed the same.

Poldres, or *Poulders*, Great and Little, are two estates in this parish, the former of which was anciently accounted a manor. It was once the property of the Clitherow's, but how long it so continued, we have not ascertained. It was, however, in the last century, in the hands of several different owners, whose interests passed wholly into the name of Hatchett, who conveyed it to one Barton; and he, after no long interval, passed it away to the Elgar's. George of that name alienated the estate to John Dowden; but, in the year 1703, one Scorier and others conveyed it to a Smith, in which name it descended to Mr. Richard Smith, who becoming a bankrupt, his assignees sold it to Richard Solly, esq. of Sandwich. On the demise of the latter, it devolved to his only son, Richard Heaton Solly,

esq. of St. Margaret's, who passed it to Thomas Godfrey, (previously named Jull,) esq. of Brook street, in Ash.

Little Poulders was formerly the property of the Terry's, of Ospringe; in which name it remained till Olive Terry, in 1749, carried it in marriage to Nathaniel Marsh, esq., whose son, Terry Marsh, esq. of Canterbury, died, possessed of the property, in 1789. His son afterwards sold the same to Mr. Baldock, of Canterbury, and he again to Mr. David Taylor, of Sandwich.

Denn Court is a manor in the southern part of this parish, adjoining the borough of Hammill, which, in the reign of Richard III., belonged to Sir Nicholas de Daubridgecourt, who, in the 13th of that reign, conveyed it by sale to Thomas Elys, of Sandwich. He having procured a licence of mortmain, conveyed it to feoffees, for the endowment of the hospital of St. Thomas's, of Sandwich, generally called Ellis's hospital; part of the possessions of which it remained, paying a quit-rent to the manor of Queen's Court, in Ospringe, and also to the manor of Hamwold. In 1535, this estate, containing 160 acres of land, was of the annual rental of £10. In 1703, it was let at £95; in 1757, at £110; and afterwards at £140. By a lease, in 1792, it was augmented to £220 per annum, affording an instance of the great increase of the value of lands in this part of the county.

Hamwold, or, as it is now called, *Hammill,* is a *borough* and *district* in the western part of this parish, which, in the survey of Domesday, is written both *Hamolde* and *Aimolde,* at which period it was part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was therein entered.

South, otherwise Upper Hamwold, or *Hammill,* as it is usually pronounced, was anciently written in deeds and old evidences *Hammonds,* or *Teukers,* and sometime after the Conquest, had become the property of Osbern Hacket, who gave the tithes to the priory of Rochester. In his descendants it continued down to Ralph Hacket, who held it by knight's service in the reign of Henry III., or the beginning of that of Edward I., but how long it continued in this name, does not appear.

The family of Greenshield's appears next to have possessed this property, their principal seat having been at Whitstable;

there is, however, no evidence of their property having existed here till the beginning of the reign of Henry VI., when John Greenshield was possessed of the same. His son, Henry, of Sandwich, died in the last year of Edward IV. possessed of this manor, who ordered this, with other estates, to be sold, when his feoffees alienated the property to the Elys's, of Sandwich, whence it passed by sale to the Wilson's, and from that line was alienated to Mr. Edmund Parbo, of Sandwich. He died possessed of the same in 1640, when this manor devolved, by his will, to the issue of his only daughter and heir, Elizabeth, wife of John Boys, of Sandwich. One of their offspring, William, the second son, was ancestor of William Boys, esq., afterwards of Walmer, and in his descendants it continued, till it was at length, by one of them, in 1711, conveyed by sale to Mr. Ralph Terry, who built the house, which is a handsome edifice.

After the above period, this property became vested, as it is presumed, by *way of mortgage*, in John Lynch, esq., of Groves, in Staple, by virtue of which he came into possession; and his heirs in 1762, with the sons of Mr. Ralph Terry, above mentioned, joined in the conveyance of the fee simple of this manor, to Sir Brook Bridges, bart., of Goodnestone, who died possessed of it in 1791, when his eldest surviving son became entitled to the same.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

Hamwold Court, generally called *Hammill Court*, and formerly Lower Hammill, to distinguish it from the last mentioned district, is situated at no great distance. This estate was always accounted a manor, though for some time it has lost all privileges appertaining to that name. In the 20th of Edward III. Thomas Brockhull was possessed of this manor, held by the service of ward to the castle of Rochester. On the latter family becoming extinct, it passed into the possession of the Stokes's, or Stokys's, from whom it went by sale to Michael Francis. His heirs sold it, under Henry VIII., to Mr. Nicholas Moyes, gent., who conveyed it to one Rogers, and passing through the names of Everard and James, the latter devised it to his two sons, Thomas and John, in separate moieties. Thomas dying, the whole of this property devolved to his brother, upon whose death we find it in the possession of his descendant's widow, Aphra James, who vested it in her son Henry. His four

daughters then inherited this property, whose heirs in 1710 conveyed it to Thomas Sladden, gent., whose son William, dying unmarried and intestate, this estate went to his only sister Mary, whose five sons, in 1758, joined in the conveyance of this manor to John Elias Sawbridge, esq., of Canterbury. He died unmarried in 1789, and by will devised it to his nephew, Jacob, who also dying in 1776, unmarried, it devolved by the limitations of the same will, to Elias Sawbridge, esq., of Ollantigh. There is no court held for this manor.

The Manor of Ringleton, or *Ringston*, as it is sometimes written, is situated at some distance westward from Woodnesborough church, and at the survey of Domesday was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was therein entered. Upon the disgrace of that prelate, this manor appears to have been granted to William de Albini, surnamed *Pincerna*, who had followed the Conqueror from Normandy. He was succeeded by his son, who was made earl of Arundel, in the reign of King Stephen, of whose successors, earls of Arundel, it was afterwards held by the countess of Eu, and of her again by knight's service, by the family of the Perot's, one of whom, Sir Ralph Perot, or Pyrot, as it was sometimes spelt, held it as above mentioned in the reign of Edward I. Mr. Boteler, of Eastry, says Hasted, has in his possession some deeds of the Perot's, of Ringleton, in the reign of Richard II., having their seals appendant thereto, bearing these arms, *A shield with a crescent, for difference, in chief, three escalop shells*, the legend, *Si Johis Perot*. From his heirs it descended, in like manner as Knolton, to John de Sandhurst, who left an only daughter and heir, Christian, and she married William de Langley, whose heirs passed it away to Robert White, when his descendants held it in the 20th of Edward III.

Sir John White, of Canterbury, a descendant of Robert abovementioned, died possessed of this property in the 9th of Edward IV., and his descendant, Thomas, in pursuance of his father's will, for the purpose of raising a sum of money for charitable uses, alienated this property to the Boteler's, or Butler's, of Heronden, in Eastry. From the latter name it passed by sale to one Neame, whose son Daniel sold it to a Spencer, and his successor, Nicholas Spencer, gent., customer of Sandwich in the reign of Elizabeth, dying, was buried in St. Clement's church

in Sandwich. His arms were, *A chevron engrailed in chief, three lions rampant, on the chevron a crescent for difference.* His sister Anne entitled her husband, Mr. Andrew Hughes, to this property, and in his descendants it continued till carried by a female heir in marriage to Justinian Champneis, esq., of Westenhanger, who died possessed of this property, far advanced in years, in 1748, leaving three sons, Justinian, William, and Henry, on whom this manor devolved in such proportions as was limited by his marriage settlement; and, according to that instrument, it has, with Westenhanger, and his other estates, ever since continued. From the above time, this estate has descended in like manner as Westenhanger, being vested in the same proportions as that manor; one sixth part allotted to Frances Champneis, and the two sons of John Burt, esq., by Harriet, her sister; and the remaining part to the Rev. William Henry Burt Champneis, eldest son of John Burt, esq. before mentioned. A court-baron is held for this manor.

In the year 1074, Odo, bishop of Bayeux, gave to St. Augustine's monastery, those tithes which his tenants possessed here, that is, Adelold, the chamberlain, in the three villes of Cnolton, Tickenhurst, and Ringleton, among others, while these he bestowed with the consent of the king; but the tithes in question were afterwards taken away from the monastery by William de Albini, the lord of the fee of those lands.

The Manor of Polton, as it is generally called, is situated in the part of this parish near Ash, its original name having been Poltmans, so called from a family resident there, which mansion was castellated and surrounded by a moat. The above family continued lords of the same down to Peter Poltman, who possessed this property under Richard II., in the 15th year of whose reign he passed it by fine to the Langley's, of Knolton, in whose possession it continued till the reign of Henry VI., when it was alienated to Sir John White, of Canterbury. His descendant, Thomas White, in pursuance of his father's will, conveyed it to Richard Boteler, of Heronden, in Eastry, for the purpose of raising money for charitable uses, in whose descendants it remained till the reign of James I., when William Boteler sold it to one Benskin. From the latter it descended to Vincent Benskin, who owned it in the reign of

Charles II., the heirs of whose grandson, John, sold it to Mr. William Barne, of London. His nephew of the same name succeeded him, and possessed this estate in the reign of George I., when it became the property of Colonel Christopher Kien, who died in 1744, leaving his wife Jane possessed of the same, who at her death, in 1762, devised it by will to Evert George Cousemaker, esq., who, dying the following year, his wife, Mary, became entitled to the property. She carried her interest to her second husband, Sir Thomas Pym Hales, bart., of Howlets, who died in 1773, when it again devolved to her; but the reversion, at her death, by Mrs. Kien's will, devolved on her only son, by her first husband, Lieutenant-colonel George Kien Hayward Cousemaker, who married the Hon. Miss Southwell. He bears for his arms those of the Cousemaker's, originally of the province of Brabant, viz. quarterly first and fourth, *Azure, on a chevron, between three mullets, or, as many trefoils, slipped vert;* second and third, *Azure, two chevrons interlaced, one issuing from the chief, and the other from the base, between eight mullets of six points, all or;* as the same were certified at the college of arms in London, in 1779, to Colonel Cousemaker.

This manor is held of that of Patrixbourne, but no court-baron has been convened for many years. The house of Polton is a large square building, apparently erected in the reign of James I., and most probably raised by the Benskin's; Colonel Kein modernized this edifice in part, and although in a low situation, being moated, it presents a respectable appearance.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, consists of a nave and two aisles, with a square tower steeple at the west end, and a modern wooden turret, wherein are five bells, cast in 1676. At the east end of the chancel is a marble tablet for John Cason, esq. of this place, obiit 1718, and another for John his son, A.D.1755. There are also mementos for Thomas Blechenden, of the ancient family of that name, of Aldington, in this county, obiit 1661, whose arms were, *Azure, a fess nebulee argent, between three lions' heads erased, or, attired gules, empaling;* Boys. On the south side is an ancient altar monument, with gothic pillars and arches, having been adorned by shields of arms, now entirely obliterated. Against the wall, under the canopy, are two brass plates, the same having been removed from the chancel; the

first to commemorate Sir John Parcar, vicar of this parish, while on the second are Latin verses to the memory of Nicholas Spencer, esq., with many others too numerous for insertion.

There were formerly painted in the windows of this church, *Or, a chief indented azure,* for John de Sandwich, and several other coats of arms, among which may be particularized those of Valence and St. Leger, *Argent, three leaves in sinister bend, their points downward, proper. On a canton, azure, three crescents, or;* for Grove, *Argent, three escalop in chief, or, in base a crescent, gules;* for Helpestone, usually called Hilpurton, bailiff of Sandwich in 1299, a shield, being Helpestone's badge, with numerous other armorial bearings for the families of the Hills's, the Spencer's, and the Heynes'.

The church of Woodnesborough was given, in the reign of Henry I., by a religious woman, named Ascelina de Wodensberg, to the priory of Leeds, soon after its foundation, which deed was witnessed by Robert de Crevequer, founder of the priory, Elias his son, and others. This gift was further confirmed by Archbishop Theobald, and several of his successors, as also by Henry III. in his 41st year.

On the dissolution of deans and chapters, after the death of Charles I., this parsonage was surveyed in 1649, when it appeared that the manor or parsonage of Woodnesborough, with the site of the same, and all its appurtenances, were valued at £300, and that the lessee was bound to repair the premises, and the chancel of the church. The incumbent, at that period, was under sequestration, so that there was no one to serve the cure, and the church, in consequence, fell into a ruinous state.

The Rectory, or Parsonage, together with the Manor of the Rectory of Woodnesborough, continued part of the possessions of the dean and chapter of Rochester, and were demised by them from time to time, on a beneficial lease. They were formerly held by the family of the Appleton's, and afterwards by that of the Blechynden's, both of which resided at the parsonage. At length the heirs of the latter alienated their interest in this property to John Cason, esq., who also lived here, when his son, of the same name, dying in 1755, Sarah, his younger sister, married to William Docksey, esq., of Shellston, in Derbyshire, became, as his heir, entitled to the same. She survived him, and by her will in 1774 devised

the lease to Anne, daughter of William Bookey Clerk, vicar of St. Laurence, in Thanet, then wife of Oliver Stephens, esq., who also resided there. His arms were, *Per chevron, azure and ermine, in chief, two eagles displayed, or.* The Bookey's bore, *Gules, on a bend, argent, three rooks, sable within a bordure, engrailed.* He died in 1795, leaving her surviving, when she possessed the interest in this, as well as the residue of the estates in this parish and neighbourhood. A court-baron is held for this manor. There are thirty-five acres of glebe land belonging to the parsonage.

The vicarage was valued in the king's books at £10 0 7½d., the yearly tenths being £1 0 0½d. It was afterwards of the clear yearly value of £56 12 5½d, and in 1640 the estimate was £80 per annum; but in 1713 the rental had decreased to £60. There are three acres of glebe land belonging to the vicarage.

In 1821 there were 101 dwellings in the parish of Woodnesborough; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 358, females 331, making a total of 689 souls.

Word, written formerly *Worthe,* is the next parish eastward from Woodnesborough, which latter is the original Saxon appellation, the letter d, in that language, being struck through, making the same sound as *th.*

There are three boroughs in this parish, viz. Felderland, Word Street, and Hackling; the borsholders for the two former are appointed at Eastry court, being within the jurisdiction of that manor, and for the latter they are named at Adisham, which manor claims over a part of this borough.

The Parish of Word lies very flat and low, and is extremely unhealthy. It is long and narrow, being nearly three miles from east to west, and not more than one across. The village called Word Street contained only twenty-nine houses when Mr. Hasted wrote, the number being now encreased, having the church adjoining, which stands nearly in the centre of the parish. At the southern boundary is the hamlet of Hackling, containing an estate called Hackling farm, which belonged to Mrs. Eleanor Dare, of Felderland. At the western extremity of the parish is the borough and hamlet of Felderland, or Fen-

derland, partly in Word, and a portion also in Eastry; it was formerly esteemed a manor, having been the property of the Manwood's, and afterwards of the Harvey's, of Combe, but subsequently passed to Earl Cowper; adjoining to which, in the same borough, is the farm of Upton, situated about a quarter of a mile westward of the church. This also was the property of the above nobleman.

At a small distance further the marshes begin, where there is a parcel of land, called WORTH, or WORDE MINNIS, belonging to the archbishop, the lessee of which was Mr. Thomas Rammel, of Eastry. Here are two currents, called the north and south streams, directing their course northwestward through the marshes, towards Sandwich. The latter was anciently the famous Gestling water, through which the sea then flowed, having been noted as the stream wherein felons were punished by drowning, when their bodies were thence conveyed by the current into the ocean. These marshes are called Lydden valley, a name derived from the manor of Lydcourt, in this parish, formerly called Hylden, the same being under the direction of the commissioners of sewers for the eastern district of Kent, whereto the north stream is the common sewer. The marshes continue beyond this current half a mile northward, at which point the sand downs commence.

The downs above alluded to consist of a long bank, covered by green swerd, the surface being very unequal, and skirting the sea-shore for more than five miles from Pepperness, being the southeast point of Sandwich bay, as far as Deal. The banks are a quarter of a mile broad, except in the vicinity of the castle, called, from its situation, Sand-down, where they terminate with the beach a short distance within shore. About the centre of these banks is a cut, named the Old Haven, that runs slanting from the sea along these downs, very near to, but not quite so far as, the river Stour, about three quarters of a mile eastward below Sandwich.

Sand-down castle stands half a mile distant from the north end of Deal, having been built, with the fortress of the last mentioned town, and others, by Henry VIII., for the defence of the coast, in 1539. Each of these castles has four round lunets, of very thick stone arched work, with numerous spacious portholes; in the centre is a large round tower, on the summit of

which is a cistern for water, and beneath an arched cavern, bomb proof; the whole encompassed by a fosse, over which is a drawbridge. These fortresses are under the government of the lord warden, who, by an Act of the 32d of Henry VIII., has the appointment of a captain and other officers.

The lands of the parish of Worth, or Word, are of the annual value of £3000, and upwards; the soil is rich and fertile, and, according to Mr. Hasted, may be justly esteemed *the garden of this portion of Kent*, being perhaps more prolific for wheat than any other district in this county. There are no woodlands in the parish, neither has it a fair.

The principal Manor in this parish is Lydde Court, written in Saxon, *Hlyden*, which was given by Offa, king of Mercia, in the year 774, to the church of Christ, in Canterbury, L.S.A., as the charter expresses it; meaning with the same franchises and liberties possessed by the manor of Adisham prior to its being given to the same. After that period, this manor continued with the priory of Christ church, when Edward I., in his 7th year, granted to it the liberty and franchise of the wrecks of the sea, *Apud le Lyde*, which we suppose to be this manor; and Edward II., in his 10th year, granted to the priory *free warren* within their demesne lands here. In that state the manor continued till the dissolution of the priory under Henry VIII., who soon after settled it on his new erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, by whom it was re-granted to the king, when that prince sold it to Stephen Motte and John Wyld, who alienated the same to Richard Southwell. He, in the 1st of Edward VI., passed it away by sale to Thomas Rolfe, who then conveyed the same to William Lovelace, sergeant at law, who died possessed of this estate in 1576. By his son, Sir William Lovelace, of Bethersden, it was alienated to Thomas Smith, esq., of Westenhanger, from whom it descended to Viscount Strangford, who sold it to Herbert Randolph, esq., and he passed away a part, afterwards called Lydde Court Ingrounds, with the manor or royalty of Lydde Court, in Word and Eastry, with lands belonging thereto, in 1706, to Sir Henry Furnese, bart., of Waldershare. His grandson, of the same name, dying in 1735, under age and unmarried, his estates became vested in his three sisters, in coparcenary, when a division having been agreed upon, this manor, with its lands and

appurtenances, were allotted to Selina, the third daughter, who afterwards married Edward Dering, esq., who entitled him to this estate. He survived her, and continued in possession of the same till 1779, when he sold it to Mr. William Walker, and Mr. James Cannon, of Deal.

The house, called the Downes house, is the court lodge, but no court has been held there for a considerable number of years.

THE REMAINING, *and by far the largest, part* of this estate, called for distinction, LYDDE COURT OUT GROUNDS, was also in the possession of the Smith's, of Westenhanger, and demised by Thomas Smith, esq., of that place, to Roger Manwood, jurat of Sandwich, for a long term of years, at which time the outer downs were enwarrened for hares and rabbits.

From Thomas Smith, esq. this estate descended down to Viscount Strangford, who sold the whole, with the manor and royalties before mentioned, to Herbert Randolph, esq., who passed away the manor and part of the lands to Sir Henry Furnese, bart. He in 1720 alienated the same to Sir Robert Furnese, bart., in whose descendants it continued down to Catherine, his daughter and coheir, who carried it in marriage, first, to the earl of Rockingham, and secondly to the earl of Guildford, to whom, on her death, in 1766, she devised this estate. He died possessed of the same in 1790, and his grandson, the earl of Guildford, ultimately owned this property. The estate comprehends all that tract of land, partly sandy, as well as marshy, the whole being nearly pasturage, lying on the south side of Sandwich haven; bounded on the east by the sea-shore, and on the west by the ditch, along which the footway leads to Deal, constituting the eastern boundary of Lydde Court Ingrounds.

In 1565 there was a suit in the star chamber, respecting a road from Sandowne gate, and Sandwich, to the castle in the Downes, which was referred to the archbishop and Sir Richard Sackville, who awarded that there should be a highway, sixteen feet broad, over Lydde Court grounds.

SANDOWNE, so called from the sand downs over which it principally extends, is a manor which lies partly in this parish and that of St. Clement's, in Sandwich, within the jurisdiction of which corporation the latter part is situated.

This manor was anciently the seat of the Perot's, who held the

estate as early as the reign of Henry III. Thomas Perot died possessed of the same in the 4th year of that reign, and Henry, the last of this name, under Edward III., was succeeded by John de Sandhurst, who left an only daughter and heir, who married William de Langley. After that period it continued in his descendants, till it passed to the Peyton's, and thence in like manner as Knolton, before described, by sale to the Narborough's, and afterwards by marriage to Sir Thomas d'Aeth, bart., whose grandson, Sir Narborough d'Aeth, of Knolton, possessed the same. A court-baron is held for this manor.

This parish is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sandwich. The church, dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul, is a small building, with a low pointed wooden turret at the west end. It consists of a nave, two aisles, and a chancel. On the south wall of the latter is an arched tomb, whereon probably once rested the figure of some person who was the founder, or at least a benefactor, towards this building. In the south aisle are several gravestones for the Philpott's of this parish, and an altar monument for Mr. Ralph Philpott, obiit 1704.

The church of Word, or Worth, was ever esteemed as a chapel to the mother church of Eastry, and so continued, being accounted as part of the same appropriation. The vicar of Eastry is inducted to the vicarage of the church of Eastry, with the chapels of Shrinkling and Word annexed thereto, and is included with that church in the valuation made of the same in the king's books.

In 1578 there were 144 communicants, and in 1640 only 114.

The rectorial or great tithes of this parish, as part of the rectory of Eastry, were demised on a beneficial lease to the late Countess Dowager of Guildford, whose younger children were entitled to the interest in this lease.

The lessee of this parsonage is bound to repair the chancel of the church.

In 1821, there were sixty-seven dwellings in the parish of Worth; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 208, females 230, making a total of 438 souls.

THE HUNDRED OF WACHLINGSTONE.

We shall now return to the confines of Kent, bordering upon Sussex, and traverse the county in a direct line, taking in our course the towns of Tunbridge, the Wells, and Maidstone; and thence pursue our route till we attain the opposite extremity of Kent, terminating in the Isle of Shepey.

The hundred of Wachlingstone encompasses the lowy of Tunbridge, on the east, west, and south sides, and is written in the survey of Domesday, *Warchelestan.*

The king and the archbishop of Canterbury were lords of this hundred in the beginning of the reign of Edward II. How the latter monarch became divested of the property herein, we have not found, but in the 15th year of that reign the king was possessed of the entire fee, and granted it, with the consent of parliament, among other estates of greater value, to Edmund of Woodstock, his half brother, who at the same time was constituted earl of Kent. He died possessed of this property in the 4th of Edward III., after which it passed in like manner as the hundred of Littlefield, till on the attainder of Henry lord Cobham, in the 1st of James I., they became forfeited to the crown, and were confirmed to the same by an Act passed specially for that purpose, two years afterwards; since which period these hundreds have continued part of the possessions of the crown.

This Hundred contains the parishes of Tudeley, *in part;* Pembury, *in part;* Bidborough, and Ashhurst, and the churches of those parishes; also a portion of the parishes of Capel, Penshurst, Lyghe, Speldhurst, and as much of Fant as lies within this county, the churches of which parishes are not within this hundred.

Tudeley is the adjoining parish eastward from Tunbridge, called in Domesday Tivelele, and in the *Textus Roffensis,* Thudelei.

It is very obscure and little frequented, being situated between the parishes of Tunbridge and Capel. The soil is much the

same as that of the latter district, lying low, being a moist stiff clay, with abundance of large spreading oaks, and the hedge rows broad and thick. The village, with the church, is near the western boundary, and at some distance southward is the hamlet of Crookhurst, beyond which this parish stretches along the southern boundary of Capel, where it is crossed by two small rivulets, which flow thence into the Medway, to the verge of this hundred, the manor and house of Badsell being there situated, in a very wet and unpleasant country.

This place constituted part of those vast possessions with which William the Conqueror enriched his half brother Odo, the haughty bishop of Bayeux, and earl of Kent, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in the survey of Domesday. Upon the disgrace of that prelate, it was, with his other estates, seized by the king.

Badsell is the principal manor in this parish, lying at the south-east end, which formerly gave name and residence to a family, some time possessors of the same. At length, by a daughter and coheir, Marian Badsell, it was carried in marriage to Thomas Stidulf, from whom the family of that name, in Surrey, was descended. He resided at Badsell, being only son and heir of Robert, and likewise heir of his uncle, Henry Stidulf, who died in the reign of Henry VI., and lies buried with his wife in this church. They left an only daughter and heir, Agnes, who carried this manor in marriage to Richard Fane, esq., of Tudeley, who died possessed of the same under Henry VIII., and was buried in the chapel of this church, which he had built. His son, George Fane, resided at Badsell, as also his son, Sir Thomas Fane, which latter having married Lady Mary, daughter of Lord Abergavenny, became, in her right, entitled to the castle and manor of Mereworth, where he afterwards resided, as did also his son, Sir Francis Fane, earl of Westmoreland. Since the above period this mansion has been converted into a farm-house, but in his descendants the property remained down to John Fane, earl of Westmoreland, who, dying in 1762, it went by the limitations of his will, with the residue of his Kentish estates, to Lord le Despencer, who owned the same.

Tudeley is within the ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, which is small, has been rebuilt of brick, having a square tower

at the west end, with a small pointed spire; and is dedicated to All Saints.

The patronage of this church was, about the year 1239, given by Richard de Theudele, Richard de Sardenne, and Alicia, Agnes, and Cecilia, daughters of John Teudeley, patrons of the same, to the prior and canons of Tunbridge; which gift was confirmed by the bishop, who soon after granted license for them to appropriate the same to their own use, on the death or resignation of John, then rector; and in the mean time, that they should receive yearly, half a mark from the rental thereof; but the vicarage was not endowed till the year 1398.

It remained with the priory of Tunbridge till the final dissolution, under Henry VIII., when, being one of those smaller monasteries which Cardinal Wolsey had obtained of the king by his letters patent, dated February 8, that year, for the endowment of his colleges, it had been surrendered, with all its possessions, to the cardinal.

This church remained with the colleges above referred to for four years only, as, the cardinal falling into disgrace in 1529, all his estates became forfeited to the king, and constituted part of the revenues of the crown.

Edward VI. in his 1st year, granted this parsonage and advowson to Sir Walter Hendley, at the yearly rental of 6s. 3½d., to hold *in capite* by knight's service. He died without issue male, leaving three daughters his coheirs.

On the division of their inheritance, this parsonage and advowson were allotted to the second daughter, Helen, who entitled her third husband, Sir Thomas Fane, of Burston, in Hunton, to the possession thereof; after which they passed to Thomas, John, and Vere Fane, three brothers, successively earls of Westmoreland; the last of whom dying in 1762, they devolved, by the limitations of his will, to Lord le de Spencer, who ultimately possessed the same.

The parsonage of Tudeley pays a fee-farm rent to the crown of 6s. 3½d. annually.

The vicarage was valued in the king's books at £4 16 0½, the yearly tenths being 9s. 7½d. The vicar of Tudeley is instituted to this vicarage, with the chapel of Capel annexed thereto.

In 1821, there were fifty-seven dwellings in the parish of Tudeley; and at the same period, when the last census of the

population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 277, females 269, making a total of 546 souls.

PEMBURY is the next adjoining parish southward from Tudeley, called in the *Textus Roffensis*, PEPPINGEBERIA, and in ancient deeds *Pepenbery*; it seems always to have been pronounced Pembury, and is now usually so written. THE PARISH OF PEMBURY, though of small breadth, extends the length of four miles from north to south, that is to say, from Tudeley to the stream at Fant, which separates this county from that of Sussex. The surface is variegated by hill and dale, the whole presenting a woody appearance, abounding throughout in large spreading oaks. The soil on the higher grounds, especially towards the west and south, is sandy, with much rock-stone beneath; and, in the vallies, abounds chiefly in clay, having plenty of marle for manure; it produces excellent corn, and the land consequently lets well. It is watered by several small streams, rising here, which pursue their course either towards the north into the Medway, opposite to Hadlow, or southward, towards the stream which divides the two counties, running by Beyham Abbey to Lamberhurst.

The church stands high and conspicuous, and the principal village is about a mile southward from the same, extending round PEMBURY UPPER, and LOWER GREEN; below which are several small hamlets, built in the same manner, round the greens. The high road from Tunbridge, towards Lamberhurst and Sussex, runs through Southfrith woods, on the western side of the parish; and at the thirty-fifth milestone, crosses the same, but at Kipping's Cross, so called from its having been the early residence of a family of that name, takes a direction along the eastern bounds of this parish, till it enters Lamberhurst, in the hundred of Brenchley. In the southern part of this district, about a mile from the thirty-fifth milestone, on the Tunbridge road, is Bayhall, pleasantly situated on the southern side of a hill; and just beneath flows the small rivulet, which runs thence till it joins the stream near Bayham Abbey.

A fair is held here on Whit Tuesday, annually, for cattle, toys, and pedlary.

THE MANORS OF PEPENBURY MAGNA, and PEPENBURY

PARVA, otherwise BOWRIDGE, with the appendant advowson of the church, the land of CROCKHERST, and other premises, were given by Simon de Wahull, to the abbey of Bayham, in Sussex; which gift was confirmed by Walter de Wahull his son and heir, and by Richard de Clare, earl of Gloucester and Hertford. Edward III. in his 2d year, granted to the abbot and convent for ever *free warren* in all their demesne lands in this parish, among others, when these manors continued in the possession of that monastery till its final dissolution, in the 17th of Henry VIII., and being one of those institutions which had been granted to Cardinal Wolsey, was surrendered, with all its possessions, into his hands. On the disgrace of that great prelate, these manors were seized, and fell into the hands of the crown, where they remained till Henry VIII., in his 25th year, granted them to Sir Edward Guildford, warden of the Cinque Ports, to hold by fealty only. His daughter and sole heir, Joan, entitled her husband, Sir John Dudley, to their possession, when they joined in the conveyance of these manors to Sir Thomas Cromwell lord Cromwell, who, the following year, procured the *disgavellment* of his lands, and was created earl of Essex, and soon after made knight of the garter, and lord high chamberlain of England. This accession of honours, however, was succeeded by as speedy a downfall, as the earl having incurred the displeasure of the king, was arrested at the council board, and being tried and convicted of high treason, condemned and executed in the 32d of that reign. On his attainder, these manors again devolved to the crown, when they were granted, under the same monarch, with other premises in this parish, to William Wybarne, to hold *in capite* by knight's service. He bore for his arms, *Sable, a fess between three swans, argent.* In his descendants these manors continued down to John Wybarne, esq., who left two daughters his coheirs; Anne, married to Robert Berkley, esq., of Spetchley, in Worcestershire; and Catherine, to Philip Jones, esq.; who, in right of their respective wives, on his death, inherited these manors and estates in undivided moieties. Robert Berkley, esq., above mentioned, was descended from Sir Robert Berkley, a judge in the reign of Charles I., whose grandson, Robert Berkley, esq., of Spetchley, married the eldest daughter of Sir Richard Blake, a lady highly eminent for her virtues. He died in 1693, and his widow, seven

years afterwards, married Dr. Burnet, bishop of Salisbury. The pedigree of the Berkley's, of Spetchley, is inserted in Nash's History of Worcestershire, where there are many curious particulars relating to that family.

These manors remained in this situation till 1777, when an Act passed to enable Robert Berkley and Philip Jones, esqs. to sell them, with others in this county and Sussex; however, they were not alienated until the year 1788, together with the parsonage and advowson of Pembury, to William Woodgate, esq. of Somerhill, who possessed the same.

Halkwell, commonly called *Hawkwell,* is a manor on the eastern side of this parish, which consists at present of two farms, called *Great and Little Hawkswells,* being held of the superior manor of Tipperidge in this parish. This estate was once the property and residence of a family of that name; after which it appears, by the register of Bayham Abbey, to have become part of the possessions of the latter, where it remained till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., when it was obtained by Cardinal Wolsey for the endowment of his colleges. Upon the disgrace of that prelate, it was granted to John Wybarne, of Culverdens in this parish, who had been tenant to the abbey for this manor before the suppression, being descended from a family seated near Crofton in Orpington, about the latter end of the reign of Henry III. It continued in his descendants for several generations, till it devolved, like that of Pembury, to Robert Berkley and Philip Jones, esqs., by whom it was conveyed, about the year 1786, to one Pollard, and afterwards to James Lewin, esq.

The manor of Bayhall, lying in the southern part of this parish, constituted part of the ancient possessions of the celebrated family of the Colepeper's, whose descendants extended over the whole surface of this county, but more particularly the western districts of the same. The two principal branches were seated at this manor of Bayhall and at Aylesford, from the latter of which descended those of Oxenhoath and Preston, in Aylesford, baronets, both now extinct; and from the former, those of Bedgebury, terminating in the Lords Colepeper, of Leeds Castle; those of Losenham in Newenden, afterwards of Hollingborne; the heir male of which is the present John Spencer Colepeper, esq., a lieutenant in the army; the line of

those of Wakehurst being now extinct. The first of this eminent family, who is handed down as having publicly signalized himself, was Thomas de Colepeper, who, from the bundles preserved in the Pipe office, was one of the *recognitores magnæ assisæ*, or justices of the grand assize, in the reign of King John, an office of considerable trust and consequence prior to the establishment of the conservators of the peace.

His descendant, Sir Thomas Colepeper, possessed the manor of Bayhall, where he resided, who appears to have left two sons; Thomas, of whom we shall treat hereafter; and Walter, ancestor of the Colepepers, of Oxenhoath, and of Preston in Aylesford, baronets.

Sir Thomas Colepeper, the eldest son, inherited Bayhall, and was castellan of Leeds castle, under the Lord Badlesmere, as previously remarked in the course of our History, under Edward II.; in the 15th year of which reign he was cruelly executed, for refusing entrance into his castle to Queen Isabel; subsequent to which, this manor became forfeited to the crown, but was soon after restored to his son; but whether owing to the royal indulgence, or in consequence of any family entail, we do not find recorded.

John Colepeper, esq., son of the above, kept his shrievalty at Bayhall, in the 39th, 40th, and 43d years of Edward III., and espoused Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir John Hardreshull, of Hardreshull in Warwickshire, by whom he had a son, Sir Thomas Colepeper, who succeeded him in this manor, and resided at Bayhall. He served the office of sheriff in the 17th and 18th years of Richard II., from which prince he procured license to enclose fifty acres of land, in order to form a park, at Pembury. He left, by Alianor his wife, daughter and coheir of Nicholas Green, esq., of Exton in Rutlandshire, three sons: Sir Thomas Colepeper; Walter Colepeper, of Goudhurst, ancestor of the branches of this family settled in the vicinage of Bedgebury, Losenham, Leeds, Hollingborne, and Wakehurst; and Nicholas Colepeper, who ended in a daughter, married to Walter Lewknor, esq.; and also a daughter, Alianore, married to Sir Reginald Cobham, of Sterborough. Sir Thomas Colepeper, the eldest son, who was of Exton in Rutlandshire, appears to have alienated this manor, in the reign of Henry VI., to Humphry Stafford, duke of Buckingham, whose grandson, Henry duke of

Buckingham, became one of the chief abettors of Richard duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III., and principal agent in his advancement to the throne. Being, however, attainted in the 1st year of the above reign, his estates were forfeited to the crown, when the king granted this manor, to the value of 100s., to John Water, otherwise Yorke Heraulde; but on the accession of Henry VII., an Act having passed for the restitution of Edward, son and heir of Henry duke of Buckingham, he became entitled to the inheritance of all the estates of the deceased duke, his father, among which was this manor of Bayhall. The latter nobleman having been equally accused and found guilty of high treason, in the 13th of Henry VIII., an Act passed for his attainder; and, notwithstanding another Act was equally ratified for the restitution, in blood, of Henry, his eldest son, it did not, however, extend to his honours and lands, which continued vested in the crown. The fee of this property so remained till the 1st of Edward VI., when that prince granted it to William Parr, marquis of Northampton, who, the same year, conveyed it to Sir Anthony Browne, knight of the garter, who had been master of the horse to Henry VIII., and one of his privy council. He, at the commencement of the ensuing year, alienated this estate to William Wybarne; one of whose descendants sold it, in the 7th of James I., to Robert Sackville, earl of Dorset, who died, possessing the property, only a few months subsequent to the purchase.

His eldest surviving son, Richard earl of Dorset, alienated this property, with the seat belonging to the manor, to Richard Amherst, esq., sergeant at law, who afterwards resided at Bayhall. He was son of Richard, who left three sons: Richard, sergeant at law, as above specified; Jeffry, rector of Horsemonden, ancestor of that branch of the family settled at Riverhead in Sevenoke; and William, who left an only daughter. The Amherst's bear for their arms, *Gules, three tilting spears, two and one, erected in pale, or, headed argent;* which coat was confirmed to Richard Amherst, esq. by William Camden, clarencieux, in 1607. Sergeant Amherst died, holding this manor, in 1632.

His grandson, Charles Amherst, esq., was also of Bayhall, and died *s. p.*, in 1709, who by his will devised this manor and seat, with all his other possessions, to his nephew and heir at law, Charles Selby, esq., son of Sir Henry Selby, sergeant at

law, and recorder of London, (second son of George Selby, esq. of Ightham,) by Elizabeth, his eldest sister, enjoining him, at the same time, to assume the surname and arms of the Amherst's.

Charles Selby Amherst, esq., accordingly inhabited Bayhall, where he died, devising this manor, by his will, to his nephew, Charles Browne, esq., counsellor, son of his sister, Dorothy, by John Browne, esq. of Shropshire. He resided at Bayhall, and died in 1753, and was interred in this church, leaving no issue by his wife, Elizabeth Mittel, who survived him, and resided here, where she died in 1790, when this estate was sold to Thomas Streatfield, esq., who became possessor of the same.

A court-lect and court-baron is held for this manor.

We cannot dismiss the subject of the estate of Bayhall, which was, to all appearance, perhaps, the most ancient seat of the Colepeper's, without dwelling more at length on that venerable family. From a pedigree before us, under one of the branches, only referring back to William Colepeper, father of Sir John Colepeper, knight, under Henry VI., which line was situated at Aylesford, we find that they intermarried with the Lords Ferrer's, of Groby; the Howard's, dukes of Norfolk; from which union descended Catherine, fifth wife of Henry VIII.; whereto might be added a long string of other noble and knightly alliances.

Weever, in his Funeral Monuments, speaking of the Colepeper's, of Bedgebury, says:

"Sir John Colepeper and Agnes his wife: this John was the last of Begebury, of this house, whose daughter married Sir Thomas Colepeper, who is remembered in our English Chronicle for siding with Thomas, the great earl of Lancaster, against his sovereign lord, King Edward the Second; and Thomas Colepeper, a gentleman of the privy chamber, is not forgotten, for being over familiar with his lord and master King Henry the eighth: the one drawn and quartered at Winchelsea, the other beheaded at Tyburn; the place fatal to both was Pontefract. A family of exemplary note, both here and sometime in the county of Rutland, by the marriage of Sir Thomas Colepeper, knight, to Eleanor, daughter and heir of Nicholas Crewe, of Rutlandshire. The church of Hedcorn was founded by one of the Colepeper's."

Dugdale, in his Baronage, referring to Lord Colepeper, says: "That this family hath, for many past ages, flourished with great esteem in the counties of Kent and Sussex; I need not here stand to give instance, and therefore shall descend to Sir John Colepeper, knight, the principal branch thereof, who being a person of great abilities, and perfectly loyal to our late Sovereign King Charles the First, of blessed memory, was by him first constituted chancellor of the Exchequer, afterwards master of the rolls, and one of his majesty's privy council. And, not forsaking him in the time of his great distresses and troubles, adventured his life courageously in his behalf in the battles of Marston, Newbery, and divers other sharp encounters; in consideration wherof, he was, by letters patent, bearing date at Oxford, the 21st October, in the twentieth year of his reign, advanced to the dignity of a baron of the realm, by the title of Lord Colepeper of Thoresway. And after the loss of all, attending our present Sovereign King Charles the Second, during the greatest part of his abode beyond sea; being also one of the lords of his privy council; departed this life, shortly after his majesty's most happy restoration, viz upon the eleventh day of July, 1660, and was buried at Hollingborn in Kent. He married two wives: first, Philippa, daughter of Sir George Snelling, knight, by whom he had one son, who took to wife, Catherine, the daughter and heir of Sir Edwin Ford, of Harting in Com. Sussex, knight, but died, without issue, in his father's lifetime; and Philippa, a daughter, married to Sir Thomas Herlakinden, of Wood Church in Com. Cantu. His second wife was Judith, daughter of Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Hollingborn in Com. Cantu., knight, by whom he had issue four sons; Thomas, John, Cheney, and Francis, who died unmarried, anno 1662: also three daughters; Elizabeth, married to James Hamilton, esq.; and Judith and Philippa; which Thomas succeeding him in his honours, married Margaret, the youngest daughter and coheir to Le Seigneur Jean de Hesse, of the noble family of Hesse, in the land of Berghennear Cullen in Germany, by whom he hath issue one daughter, called Catherine."

Clarenden, in his History of the Rebellion, equally makes mention of the above Sir John Colepeper, afterwards created a peer, in the following manner:

"The king, resolved to call the lords of Falkland and Sir John Colepeper, who was knight of the shire for the county of Kent, to his council, and to make the former secretary of state, that had been kept vacant; and the latter, chancellor of the Exchequer. They were of great authority in the House, neither of them of any relation to the court, and therefore what they said made the more impression, and they were frequent speakers. Sir John Colepeper was generally esteemed as a good speaker, being a man of an universal understanding, a quick comprehension, a wonderfull memory; who commonly spoke at the end of the debate, when he would recollect all that had been said of weight on both sides, with great exactness, and express his own sense with much clearness, and such an application to the House, that no man gathered a more general concurrence to his opinion than he, which was the most notable, because his form and manner of speaking was ungracious enough, so that he prevailed only by the strength of his reason, which he enforced with confidence enough."

Dencrouch, Highlands, and Prigles, are three small manors in this parish, which formerly belonged to the Cistertian abbey of Robertsbridge, in Sussex, where they remained till the dissolution, when that abbey was surrendered to the king. Soon after that period his majesty granted them to John Guldeford, esq., who soon conveyed them by sale to Sir Alexander Colepeper, of Bedgbury, who had a confirmation of them from the crown. His great grandson, Sir Alexander, also of Bedgbury, alienated these manors in the reign of James I., to Nicholas Miller, esq., of Horsenell's Crouch, in Wrotham. At what period they passed from that family we have not ascertained, but find them in 1766 in the hands of Elizabeth Pollard, widow, from whom they went into the possession of James Lewin, esq.

Tipperidge is a manor in this parish, which was for many years in the possession of the family of the Nevill's, Lords Abergavenny.

Pembury is within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester, and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to St. Peter, has a spire steeple at the west end. It was built by one of the family of the Colepeper's, who were patrons of the same, and most probably by John Colepeper, esq.,

in the reign of Edward III. as, upon the three buttresses, on the south side of the chancel, there remain three shields of coat armour, each carved on an entire stone, of about two feet and a half in depth, equal with that of the buttress, which shews them to be coeval with the building. On the first is a rectangular cross, the second bears the coat armour of the Hardreshull's, *A chevron between eight martlets,* viz. *five and three;* the above-mentioned John Colepeper having married the coheir of that family. The third shield displays the arms of the latter family, *Argent, a bend engrailed, gules.* On a very ancient stone, on the pavement of the chancel, is an inscription in old French, for Margaret, the daughter of Sir Thomas Colepeper, which seems coeval with the above-mentioned reign. There are also several monuments and memorials for the Amherst family, and their relatives; an inscription and figure in brass also for Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Rowe, esq., of Hawkwell, A.D. 1607, and a memento for George Bolney, esq., who married a Wybarne; while, in the porch, are two ancient stones, having brasses upon them.

This was a discharged living, of the clear yearly value of £46 10s., the yearly tenths being 12s. 8d. King Edward III., in his 28th year, in consideration of twenty marks paid by John Colepeper, of Bayhall, granted license for him to found a perpetual chantry, with a chaplain, to celebrate masses daily for the repose of his soul, and those of his ancestors, in the chapel of St. Mary, in the cemetery of this church, and to endow it with lands and rents in this and the adjoining parishes. And, in his 38th year, in consideration of 100 shillings, paid to him by the prior and convent of Rochester, he further granted license for them to assign an annual rent charge of ten marks out of their manor of Woldeham, to the before-mentioned chaplain.

This chantry existed till the general suppression of such foundations, by an Act in the reign of Edward VI. at which period the total revenues of the same were £11 15 $4\frac{3}{4}$ per annum. Soon after the above period the building itself was pulled down, the materials sold, and the land parcelled out to different persons. This chapel was situated in the churchyard, being covered with lead, and was thirty feet in length, and eighteen in breadth.

The vicarage was afterwards worth about £150 per annum.

In 1821 there were 149 dwellings in the parish of Pembury; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 467, females 424, making a total of 891 souls.

Bidborough lies westward from Pembury, and the adjoining parish, and southward from Tunbridge.

The situation of this parish is pleasant and healthy, but small, and encircled on three sides by the parish of Tunbridge, and on the fourth by Speldhurst. It lies mostly upon elevated ground, the soil being in the higher parts a sand, which covers the quarry rock-stone.

The low lands extend westward along the stream, by Barden furnace to Pounds bridge, which separates this parish from that of Tunbridge, and here the land is of clay, and very wet, but the whole rather an unfertile soil. The high road from Tunbridge town, towards the Wells, runs along the eastern side of this parish, close to the west side of which is the seat and plantations called Bounds, the residence of the Countess Dowager of Darnley; and, adjoining, the hamlet of Southborough, which is within the parish of Tunbridge.

In the reign of Edward I. George le Chaun possessed this place; but, before the 20th of Edward III. this property seems to have been divided, as, on levying the aid of forty shillings on every knight's fee, for making the Black Prince a knight, Thomas Chaun, prior of Tunbridge, and John Bounde, junior, paid aid for it as one knight's fee, which George le Chaun before held in Bitberg la Leigh, Ealding, and Bokingfold, of the earl of Gloucester.

The manor of Bidborough continued in the name of Chaun till the reign of Edward IV., when, together with an ancient seat in this parish, now called Bounds, but in old deeds written Boons' tenement, it passed into that of Palmer, one of which family, named Thomas, died possessed of them in the 23d of Henry VI., holding the same of the duke of Buckingham, by knight's service. John, his son and heir, alienated them to the family of the Fane's, of Vane, one of whom, Sir Ralph, knight banneret, in the 6th of Edward VI., espousing too zealously the

interests of the duke of Somerset, was found guilty of high treason, and executed on Tower hill.

On his attainder, this manor and seat became vested in the crown, where they remained till the reign of Elizabeth, who, by letters patent, in her 1st year, granted them to her kinsman, Henry Carey, lord Hunsdon, who at his death, in the 38th of that reign, devised them by will to his eldest son and successor, George, lord Hunsdon, who died in 1603. He left an only daughter and heir, Elizabeth, married to Sir Thomas Berkley, K.B., eldest son and heir of Lord Berkley, who, in her right, became possessed of this manor and seat, which he soon after alienated to Sir Thomas Smith, of Westenhanger, in this county. He afterwards resided at Sutton at Hone, where he died, and was buried in 1625. His son Robert resided at Bounds, and his son and heir removed to Sutton, and died in 1695, possessed of this manor and seat, leaving Catherine his wife, and two sons, Henry and William, to whom this manor and seat of Bounds descended, as heirs in *gavelkind*.

In the 10th of King William, an Act was obtained to vest this manor and seat, and other estates in this county, in trustees, for the discharging of incumbrances; but, other estates elsewhere being found sufficient for that purpose, this manor, with Bounds, and all the other estates in Bidborough, continued in their possession. On the death of William Smith, the second son, unmarried, Henry possessed the whole fee of this manor and seat, and resided at Bounds. He died in 1706, leaving by Elizabeth, his wife, an only son and heir, Sir Sydney Stafford Smith, chief baron of the Exchequer, who married Sarah, eldest daughter of Sir Charles Farnaby, bart., of Kepington, and died in 1778, as did his widow, Lady Smith, in 1790. She, by her will, devised this estate in trust, to be sold for the benefit of her nephews and nieces, which was soon afterwards effected, when this property devolved to the right hon. Lord Darnley, in whom the fee became vested. A court-baron is held for this manor.

BIDBOROUGH is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to St. Laurence, contains no memorials. It is a rectory, and was always esteemed an appendage to the manor, till Lady Smith gave it by will, in 1790, to the Rev. Mr. Venn, who became patron of the same.

This was a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of £40, the yearly tenths amounting to 10s. 5½d.

The rectory was augmented by Queen Anne's Bounty, which, with the purchase of some adjoining land, made a very considerable addition to the glebe.

Mr. Brock, the rector, built a new parsonage-house, near the church, in a handsome style, after a design of Mr. Wyatt.

In 1821 there were thirty-four dwellings in the parish of Bidborough; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 100, females 92, making a total of 192 souls.

Ashurst lies southwestward from Bidborough, on the confines of this county, adjoining Sussex, from which it is separated, both on the south and west sides, by a small stream.

This district is called, in the *Textus Roffensis*, Aischerst, and derives its name from the Saxon word *æsces*, ash trees, and the British *hyrst*, meaning the wood of ashes. Ashurst lies in this hundred of Wachlingstone, which joins it by a narrow slip or isthmus, running eastward by Tophill and Mitchel's farms, towards Rusthall common and Bishop's down, in Speldhurst. The northern part joins both Penshurst and Speldhurst, in the hundred of Somerden, part of which is attached to the western portion of this parish, separated from the residue of that hundred, and containing the hamlet of Groombridge, in Speldhurst. This parish consists of hill and dale, the western part being woody, and the soil a stiff wet clay, rather unfertile. The church is situated on the west side of the parish, about a quarter of a mile from the river, which, separating at this point, forms a small island, and on either side is a bridge, over which the road leads into Sussex. There is no village, the houses being interspersed in various directions throughout this district. In this parish is a seat and estate called *Ashurst place*, formerly belonging to Admiral Forbes, which was afterwards the residence of Peter Lefenue, esq.

The Manor of Ashurst, with that of *Buckland* appendant, was part of the lands assigned to Jeffery de Peverel, for his assistance in the defence of Dover castle, and with other

lands, made up the barony of Peverel, as it was then called, being held of that castle *in capite*, by barony.

Nicholas de Gerund afterwards held this manor, and its appendages of Buckland, with the advowson of the church of Ashurst, of the king *in capite*, and died possessed of the same in the 52d of Henry III. His descendant, Richard Gerund, in the reign of Edward III. leaving an only daughter, Maud, she carried them in marriage to Sir Henry de Chalfunt, who bore for his arms, *three bends ermine*, and died possessed of these estates in the 45th year of the same reign, holding them *in capite*, and performing ward to the castle of Dover.

They continued in his descendants till the reign of Henry V., when, by the heir general of this family, they devolved to Robert le Hadde, of Frinsted, whose descendant, Robert Hadde, in the reign of Henry VIII., conveyed this estate to William Waller, esq. of Groombridge, who died in the 18th year of that reign, and in his descendants it continued till Sir Thomas Waller, in the reign of Elizabeth, alienated it to Thomas Sackville, earl of Dorset. He died possessed of this property in 1608, when his grandson, Richard earl of Dorset, conveyed this manor of Ashurst, to Sir George Rivers, of Chafford, whose eldest son John was created a baronet in the 19th of James I. Two years after, his lands, as well as those of his father, were *disgavelled*, and on his father's death he succeeded to this estate, which continued in his descendants until Sir George Rivers, bart. dying in 1734, without issue male, by his will devised it, with his seat of Chafford, among his other estates, to his five natural children. The surviving legitimate daughters, and the heirs of those deceased, however, filed a bill in chancery to set the will aside, when, after a process at law, and several decrees, the court ordered the estates to be sold in 1743, which accordingly took place, when they were purchased by Mr. William Saxley, gent., of Horsted Cayns, in Sussex, who died possessed of them in 1783. In pursuance of his will they were afterwards sold to Robert Burges, esq. of Lyghe, who dying in 1794, his widow remarrying James Harbroc, esq , he in her right became possessed of this estate.

A court-baron is held for this manor, and a heriot is paid on the death of a tenant, of the best living beast.

ASHURST is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of

the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church is a low mean building, having a wooden steeple, and over the porch are the arms of Sir John Rivers, who gave the dial. In this structure there are no memorials whatsoever. Previous to the Reformation, a famous rood or crucifix existed here, which was much resorted to for its supposed miraculous powers.

This rectory was a discharged living of the yearly value of £35, the annual tenths being 10s. 5½d.

The church of Ashurst was anciently esteemed an appendage to the manor, and so continued till the reign of James I., when Richard earl of Dorset alienated the manor, but reserved the church to himself, since which it has remained vested in his descendants, down to his grace the late duke of Dorset.

In 1821, there were thirty-one dwellings in the parish of Ashurst; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 103, females 105, making a total of 208 souls.

THE LOWY OF TUNBRIDGE.

SOUTHWESTWARD from TWYFORD HUNDRED lies the hundred of Wachlingstone, last described, with the *liberty of the lowy of Tunbridge*, which we now enter upon, having probably once constituted part of the same, though for a considerable time past it has been subjected to a separate jurisdiction.

THE LOWY OF TUNBRIDGE, or, as it is now generally called, *the Lewy*, adjoins the hundred of LITTLEFIELD, towards the north, and on the other sides is encircled by the hundred of Wachlingstone, containing about six miles in length from north to south, and the same extent in width from east to west. The whole being within that district, called the *Weald of Kent*.

The lowy contains within its boundaries the boroughs of HADLOW, TUNBRIDGE TOWN, HILDEN, and SOUTH. *The borough of Hadlow*, containing part of the parish of CAPEL, and a portion of that of HADLOW, with the churches of both those parishes.

The borough of Tunbridge town contains that town and the church, while those of HILDEN and SOUTH comprise the remaining portion of the parish of Tunbridge.

Each of these boroughs has a constable, who possesses jurisdiction over his respective borough.

THE LOWY OF TUNBRIDGE is called, in old Latin deeds, *Districtus Læucæ de Tonebridge*, and in Domesday record, *Leuua Ricardæ de Tonebriga*.

It was anciently the custom in Normandy to term the district round a castle, abbey, or chief mansion, *leuca*, or *leucata*, in English, *the lowy ;* wherein the possessor had generally a grant of several peculiar liberties, privileges, and exemptions. When Richard Fitz-Gislebert, who came into England with William the Conqueror, had possessed himself of the manor and castle of Tunbridge, in exchange with the archbishop for other lands in Normandy, he procured a grant of several liberties and exemptions, as also for his adjoining manor of Hadlow, and called this

district round his manor and castle, the *Lowy of Tunbridge*, which name it has ever since borne.

In process of time, frequent disputes arose between the earls of Gloucester, successors of Richard de Tonebridge, in his Lowy, and the archbishops of Canterbury, in regard to the limits, their extents, and privileges, which were adjusted from surveys made by the command of Henry III.

After that period, disputes again arising concerning the bounds of the Lowy, another perambulation took place in the 8th of Edward I., before Stephen de Penchester and Solomon Roffe, justices in Eyre; but the places, as well as names of persons mentioned in both those perambulations, being obsolete and now totally unknown, the insertion of them in this place would afford so little information to the reader, that we think it better to omit both.

"And the inquest found further, that no man's tenants, excepting the earls, were within the perambulations; and that the tenants of the archbishop were within the jurisdiction of his own bailiff or ministers."

At the period above referred to, the earl of Gloucester claimed, among others, these liberties, within his Lowy; viz., a coroner out of his own tenants, or by their election in the court of Tunbridge: that his tenants should not make presentments before any justices in Eyre, either of assize or gaol delivery, but only when they should come into the Lowy, which they ought to do before their departure out of Kent, there to hold their oyer assize or gaol delivery for the Lowy.

That the ministers of the king or archbishop should not bear up their rods in the Lowy, or make any summonses or distresses for any pleas out of the same. That his tenants should be free of toll over all England: and that when the justices in Eyre should repair to Canterbury, the earl's steward should go thither with twelve men of the Lowy, and in their hearing, demand allowance of these liberties: and that the justices should, at their pleasure, assign a day to go to Tunbridge before their departure from the shire.

In the 7th of Edward I., the earl of Gloucester claimed the above privileges within his Lowy, and likewise view of frank-

pledge and assize of bread and beer within his lands in the parishes of ELTHAM, PRESTON, MEREWORTH, NETELSTEDE, CHEKESHALL, TREMWORTH, HARDRESS, STELLING, NATYNGDEN, BLEAN, and SHELDEWYKE: and that his tenants in them should be free from all suit and service in the hundreds of the county; and on a *quo warranto*, in the 21st year, and also in the 29th of the above reign, the liberties and privileges, above mentioned, within the Lowy, were allowed and confirmed to him and his heirs. Hugh de Audley and Margaret his wife claimed these privileges, under Edward III., within their Lowy, and also *free warren* and chase, and to hold *pleas of Withernam:* and that the tenants of the Lowy should be free from all toll, passage, murage, pontage, and contributions to the repairs of highways, &c. throughout England.

All the above-mentioned liberties, even within the district of the Lowy, have been disused time out of mind; nor has there been a bailiff appointed for the same within memory; it therefore now falls in with the like jurisdiction as other places in this county, which, not being in any hundred, appoint their own constables.

THE BOROUGH OF HADLOW, within the Lowy of Tunbridge, contains the *parish of Hadlow*, with the church, except a small district on the northern part, which is in the hundred of Littlefield.

The parish of Hadlow is of large extent, adjoining West Peckham, to the north, and is bounded southward by the Medway. To the west it extends to the Northfrith woods and the parish of Tunbridge. It is far from a pleasant situation, presenting a flat low country, much covered with large and spreading oaks, and broad hedge-rows; the soil is, in general, a stiff clay, very wet and swampy; towards the upper part of the parish it is poor, and inclined to be gravelly; lower down, the lands become more fertile, and bear good corn and hops, of which there were many plantations. Near the river the grass lands are very rich, and the pasturage excellent for the fatting of cattle of large size. The rivulet called *the Sheet*, which flows from Plaxtool, by Oxenhoath, crosses this parish, joining the Medway a little above Brandt bridge; near which, at Hartlake bridge, in the eastern part of this parish, is what is called a *flowing bolt*, being an ingenious contrivance to pen up the water

to a certain height, by which means it can be let out, in dry seasons, to flow over and moisten the adjoining meadows, which is of great advantage to the land. The high road from Maidstone, through Mereworth, to Tunbridge, crosses this parish over Hadlow common, whence it passes through the town or village of Hadlow; between which and the river is Fish hall and Hadlow place; and to the eastward, the small hamlets of Goldwell Green, Barnes, and Mill Street.

On the bank of the Medway, at the west end of the parish, is a wharf and landing-place, called Hadlow stairs, for the unloading of timber, coals, and other merchandise.

A fair is held annually in Hadlow town, on Whit Monday.

It appears, from the survey of Domesday, that this place was part of those vast possessions with which William the Conqueror enriched his half brother, Odo bishop of Bayeux; under the general title of whose lands it was therein entered.

In the reign of Henry III., the seignory of this manor was claimed by the archbishop of Canterbury, and an agreement entered into, in the 42d year of the same reign, between Archbishop Boniface and Richard de Clare, earl of Gloucester and Hertford, concerning the customs and services which the archbishop required of the earl, on account of the tenements which the latter held of him in Tunebreyge, Hanlo, &c.: that is, the manors of Tunebregge and Hanlo, together with the whole of the Lowy of Tonebregge; when the archbishop required that the earl should do him homage, and that he should be the high steward of him and his successors at their great feast, whensoever it happened that the archbishop should be enthroned.

The above-mentioned Richard de Clare, earl of Gloucester, dying at Eschemerfield in this county, in the reign of Henry III. Gilbert his son succeeded him in this manor; and his heir, whose son of the same name and earl of Gloucester, dying in the reign of Edward II., without surviving issue, his three sisters became his coheirs; upon which, this manor of Hadlow, with that adjoining, and the castle of Tunbridge, appear to have been allotted to Margaret, the second sister, wife of Hugh de Audley, who in her right possessed them, and was, in the reign of Edward III. in consequence of this marriage, created earl of Gloucester.

Margaret countess of Cornwall and Gloucester died in the

16th year of the above reign, and her husband, Earl Hugh, surviving her about five years, died possessed of this manor by courtesy of the realm, leaving by her an only daughter and heir, Margaret, then wife of Ralph Stafford lord Stafford. He obtained a special possession of all the lands of her inheritance; and in his descendants, earls of Stafford, and afterwards by creation, dukes of Buckingham, this manor continued down to Richard duke of Buckingham, who, in the 13th of Henry VIII. being accused of conspiring the death of the king, was found guilty and beheaded that year, and although there was an Act passed for his attainder, another passed also for the restitution in blood of Henry, his eldest son, the same, however, not extending to his honours and lands, which became forfeited to the crown. The king therefore, in his 16th year, granted the manors of Hadlow and Northfrith to Sir Henry Guildford, comptroller of his household, to hold by knight's service. Sir Henry Guildford, who had highly signalised himself by his valour against the Moors in Spain, was first knighted, and afterwards created a knight banneret, and master of the horse. In the 17th of Henry VIII., he was appointed one of the chamberlains of the Exchequer, and elected a knight of the garter, being then only thirty-nine years of age.

On his death, in the 23d year of the above monarch, this manor reverted to the crown, where it remained till Edward VI., in his 4th year, granted the estate and park of Hadlow to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, who was created duke of Northumberland; and he by indenture, in the 7th year of that reign, inrolled in the Augmentation-office, sold this manor, among other premises, to the king, in exchange for lands in other counties.

The manor of Hadlow remained vested in the crown till the accession of Queen Elizabeth, who, in her 1st year, granted it, together with the park called Northfryth, to her kinsman, Henry Carey, lord Hunsdon, to hold *in capite;* and he appears to have given it, during his life, to his eldest son, Sir George Carey, who possessed it in the 25th year of that reign. He died in the 1st of James I., without issue male, when this manor and title devolved to his brother, John, who also dying in the 15th of the above reign, his eldest son, Henry lord Hunsdon, conveyed this estate by sale to James Faircloth, M. D., of London, who alienated the same to George Rivers, esq., of this parish; and he was

Bartlett

succeeded by his son, Edward, who died possessed of this manor in 1660. His successor alienated the estate, in the reign of Charles II., to Jeffry Amherst, gent., who sold the same, in 1699, to Mr. John France; and he dying without issue male, his two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, became his coheirs. The eldest married Walter Barton, gent.; and the youngest, George Swayne, gent.; when, on the death of Sir Jeffrey Amherst, the former, by settlement, succeeded to this manor, as did his son, Mr. John Barton; and his son, Walter, who afterwards changed his name to May, ultimately possessed this estate.

A court-leet and court-baron is held for this manor, entirely independent of that held for the manor of Tunbridge.

HADLOW PLACE is a seat and estate in this parish, which, in all probability, gave both name and residence to a family of no small note in ancient times.

John de Hadloe, a descendant of Nicholas, was one of those gentlemen of this county who attended Edward I. in his expedition to Scotland, in the 28th year of that reign; and, for his services at the battle of Carlaverock, was constituted a knight banneret by that prince. The Hadloe's bore for their arms, *three crescents*, to which were afterwards added, *seven cross crosslets*, in token of some exploit or expedition against the Saracens in the Holy Land, a usual mark of honour in those times. This addition was, most probably, made to Nicholas de Hadloe, who followed Richard I. to the siege of Ascalon in Palestine.

How long Hadlow place remained in the possession of this family we do not find, but most likely till it was alienated to the Vane's, or Fane's. Henry Fane, the eldest son of John, of Tunbridge, possessed it in the reign of Henry VII., who dying without issue, gave by will this manor and place, with all his lands in Hadlow and Capel, to his kinsman, Ralph Fane, in tail male, with remainder to each of the sons of his younger brother, John, successively, in like tail.

Ralph Fane was afterwards knighted at the siege of Boulogne, in 1544; and for his gallant behaviour at the battle of Musselburgh, in the 1st of Edward VI., was made knight banneret, but in the 6th year of that reign, being found guilty of high treason, was beheaded. He died without male issue, and Hadlow place, with the adjoining lands, by virtue of the above entail, devolved

to Henry Fane, the eldest son, of John, deceased. This gentleman, being concerned in the insurrection raised by Sir Thomas Wyatt, was attainted, but the queen pardoned him on account of his youth, when his estates were restored to him. His son, Henry, denominated himself, as his ancestors had done, Vane, which appellation his posterity have continued to adopt ever since. He removed his residence to Raby castle, in the bishopric of Durham, and was afterwards knighted ; from which time he acted a conspicuous part in public affairs, and was in great favor with Charles I.; but, in 1642, the king, being offended at his vindictiveness in the prosecution of the earl of Strafford, he was removed from his post of secretary of state, and from the privy council, and became one of the king's most malicious enemies. Soon after the death of that monarch, he alienated this seat and estate to Mr. Thomas Petley, of Filston, in Shoreham, and he left it to his son, Ralph, who removed from Shoreham to Riverhead in Sevenoak ; and in his descendants, resident there, this estate continued, in like manner with that seat, to Ralph Carter Petley, who dying in 1788, Mrs. Petley, his widow, possessed the same.

Fromans, otherwise Goodwis, is a manor in this parish, which was formerly called Fromonds, from a family of that name, that once possessed it.

Simon Fromond was owner of this estate in the reign of Henry III., in which name it continued till Richard Fromond sold it to one of the family of the Colepeper's ; in whose descendants it remained till Richard Colepeper, of Oxenhoath, about the time of Edward IV., passed it by sale to John Fromond, a descendant of the before-mentioned Richard. By one of his successors it was alienated to the Vane's, in which family it continued down to Henry Vane, of Hadlow place, who died possessed of this manor of Goodwis or Fromans, then held of the manor of Hadlow by knight's service. His grandson, Sir Henry, alienated this estate, in like manner as Hadlow place, to Ralph Carter Petley, esq. of Riverhead, whose widow succeeded to this inheritance. A court-baron is held for this manor.

Crombury, or East Crombury, is another manor in Hadlow, which, in ancient times, was called *Cranchcberi*, and afterwards *Crongeberi*, as appears from the archives of the church of Rochester.

This place was, soon after the Conquest, in the possession of William, son of William de Horsmundenne, who gave the tenths of the same to St. Andrew's priory, in Rochester; at which time it was accounted an appendage to the manor of Mereworth. It afterwards passed into the possession of a family of that name; John de Mereworth, in the reign of Edward III., having paid aid for the manor of Mereworth, with Crongebury, held of the earl of Gloucester, as one knight's fee. From the above name it passed into that of Fromund, until Thomas Fromund alienated it to John Godwin, one of whose ancestors sold it to the Peckham's; when Catherine died, possessed of it, in the reign of Henry VII., then holding it of the duke of Buckingham, as did her son, Thomas Peckham, gent., under Henry VIII., by knight's service. His son, Thomas, soon afterwards passed it away to the family of the Vane's, where it continued, in the same manner as Hadlow place, down to Sir Henry Vane, who alienated this manor to Mr. Thomas Petley; from whom it descended to Ralph Carter Petley, esq. of Riverhead, whose widow ultimately possessed this property. A court-baron is held for this manor.

Caustons is a manor in this parish, which had formerly owners of that name, as, in the 8th of Edward II. the heirs of Hugh de Causton and William Franklyn held the eighth part of a knight's fee in Hadlow of the honour of Clare.

This manor continued in the name of Causton till Hugh Causton alienated it to one of the family of the Watton's, of Addington, where it continued till William Watton, esq. of Addington, sold it to Thomas Peckham, owner likewise of the manor of Crombury; in whose descendants it continued till Thomas Peckham, in the reign of Henry VIII., passed it away, with the rest of his estates in this parish, to the family of the Vane's. Thence it descended to Sir Henry Vane, who sold this manor to one Maynard, of Mayfield, in Sussex; in which line it remained in the reign of Charles II., and, after some intermediate owners, was sold to Mr. John Kipping, in which family it afterwards continued.

Goldwell, or Coldwell, is an estate in this parish, anciently possessed by a family of some rank, named Beald, whence it passed into the line of the Fromond's, who were considerable owners in this parish. In that name it continued some

time, until John Fromond alienated the estate to one of the family of the Colepeper's; in which it continued till Sir Richard Colepeper, of Oxenhoath, dying in the reign of Richard III. without issue male, his three daughters became his coheirs, and on a division of their inheritance, this estate of Goldwell was allotted to Margaret, the eldest, married to William Cotton, esq. afterwards of Oxenhoath. His grandson, Robert, of Hadlow, alienated the same to John Chowne, gent. of Fairlane, whose great grandson, Sir George Chowne, of the same place, intending to confine his possessions within Sussex, sold it, after the death of Charles I., to Mr. Thomas Barton, gent. His daughter, Alice, married John Keriel, esq., and his grandson, John, passed it by sale to Mr. William Heath, on whose death, without issue, it devolved to his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Burges, of Westerham, whose only son, Robert Burges, esq. of Hall place, in Lyghe, died possessed of this estate.

Peckhams is a manor in this parish, which derived its name from a family that once possessed the same.

John de Peckham, in the 8th of Edward II., held this manor of the honour of Clare by knight's service; and in his descendants it continued till alienated to the Colepeper's, and in that name it remained till the death of Sir Richard Colepeper, without issue male; after which it was divided between his three daughters, when this manor was allotted to Margaret, married, as before mentioned, to William Cotton, of Oxenhoath, and his grandson alienated the same to the Ferrer's. In the reign of Edward VI., Dame Constantia Ferrers died possessed of this manor, holding it by knight's service; and her son, Edward, sold it to the Leigh's, whose descendant, Mr. John Leigh, passed it away by sale to George Rivers, esq. of this parish. His grandson, in the reign of Charles II., alienated it to a family of the name of Dalling, one of whom, Mr. John Dalling, of Westerham, died, possessed of the same, about the year 1750, leaving an only daughter and heir, married to Mr. Jonathan Chilwell, then of Tunbridge, who possessed the same.

Fish Hall is a seat in this district, formerly the residence of John de Fisher, so called from having been invested by Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester, with the privilege of fishing freely and without control, within his jurisdiction.

The name of Fisher continued in his posterity, one of whom

possessed this seat, and resided here in the reign of Henry VIII., of which he possessed a lease from the king, of the site of the manor of Hadlow, as he soon afterwards also had of all the rivers, fisheries, and ponds within the same. He alienated this seat to the family of the Vane's, whence it passed by sale to the Rivers's, of Chafford.

George Rivers, second son of Sir George Rivers, of Chafford, resided at Fish hall, and was succeeded by his son Edward, who also resided here, and possessed the seat at his death in 1660. His successor alienated this property, in the reign of Charles II., to Geoffry Amherst, gent., who sold it to John France, and he leaving two daughters his coheirs, the eldest married, as before mentioned, to Walter Barton, gent., and the youngest to George Swayne; the latter possessed this seat in right of his wife, by the will of her father, and Mr. Thomas Swayne, his son, sold it to Mr. John Porter, of this parish.

Barnes Place is a considerable estate, which formerly belonged to Sir John Van Hatton, who in 1768 passed it by sale to Sarah, Viscountess Falkland, who dying possessed of this property in 1776, devised it for life to her husband, Viscount Falkland, with remainder in fee to Francis Motley Austen, esq. of Sevenoak, who purchased Lord Falkland's life interest therein, and thus became possessed of the same.

Hadlow is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester, and *deanery* of Malling. The church, which stands on the east side of the town, in Hadlow borough, dedicated to St. Mary, is a small building, with a low pointed steeple at the west end. It contains a monument for Sir John Rivers and his lady.

This was part of the possessions of the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, as early as the reign of King John, and at the period of the dissolution of monasteries, under Henry VIII., appears to have been esteemed a manor. King Edward VI., in his 1st year, granted the rectory and advowson of Hadlow to Sir Ralph Fane, and Elizabeth his wife, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service. On Sir Ralph's demise, his widow possessed it, and soon afterwards alienated one part, by the description of the manor of the rectory of Hadlow, to Sir Thomas Roydon, of East Peckham, whose daughter and coheir, Elizabeth, married William Twysden, of Chelmington, who became in her right possessed of

the manor and rectory; and his descendant, Sir William Jarvis Twysden, bart., sold it to Mr. Walter Barton, who possessed this tithery, with the manor and appurtenances thereto belonging.

The other two parts of this rectory remained in the possession of Lady Elizabeth Fane, who, in the reign of Queen Mary, alienated the remainder of the parsonage of Hadlow, to Henry Fisher, who passed it away to Richard Smith, and from him it went to the family of the Rivers's. Sir Thomas Rivers conveyed that part of the parsonage which consisted of the tithes arising within the ward of Stayer, to Edward Rivers, esq., who died possessed of the same in 1660, and was buried in this church. His son George held it nearly seventy years, and dying, gave it by will to his godson, George Rivers, esq. of the Inner Temple, who, in 1737, sold the reversion to Stephen Hervey, esq. of London, and he conveyed the fee thereof to Mr. Robert Simmons, of Hadlow, who gave it to Mr. William Simmons, the after possessor of this part of the parsonage of Hadlow.

The advowson of the vicarage of Hadlow seems to have continued in the family of the Rivers's till the death of Sir George Rivers, in 1734, when disputes arising, it was put into chancery, and, after several decrees and processes at law, this advowson, among his other estates, was, in 1743, ordered by the court to be sold, upon which it was conveyed to the Rev. Arthur Spender, vicar of this parish, who died in 1750. His son dying unmarried, it then devolved to his brother, Mr. John Spender, of Northamptonshire, who sold it to Mr. Monypenny, when he became the patron of this vicarage.

It was valued in the king's books at £13, the yearly tenths being £1 6s.

The income arising from the vicarage greatly depends on the hop plantations in this parish, which have been for some years so advantageous as to increase the income to £240 per annum.

In 1608 the communicants in this parish amounted to 376.

In 1821 there were 277 dwellings in the parish of Hadlow; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow : males 907, females 850, making a total of 1757 souls.

Southward from Hadlow lies Capel, so called from the

church having been always esteemed as a *chapel only* to the church of Tudely adjoining, though in regard to its civil jurisdiction, it has always been ranked as a distinct parish of itself. Part is in the hundred of Wachlingstone, but by far the largest portion, together with the church, is within the lowy of Tunbridge.

THIS LITTLE PARISH is situated opposite to Hadlow, on the southern side of the river Medway, about a mile from the stream, and lies obscurely, in a woody country, but little known or frequented. The surface is low and flat, except in the middle, where there is a small rise, whereon the church stands; the soil in the vicinity is composed of sand and stone, but in the remainder of the parish, presents a deep miry clay; the hedge-rows being broad, and filled with large spreading oaks. It is a very wet and damp district, full of ponds, and watered by two small streams on the eastern and western sides of the parish, which run hence into the Medway; towards the south it joins the Southfrith woods, and the parish of Pembury.

The manor and borough of Hadlow, in Tunbridge, claim over that part of this parish which is within the lowy, and is here called the borough of Hadlow Capel.

TATLINGBURY is a manor in this parish, which appears, from the book of knight's fees, in the reign of Edward I., to have been part of the possessions of the prior and convent of Tunbridge, with which it was surrendered in the reign of Henry VIII. who gave it towards the endowment of Cardinal Wolsey's college. On the disgrace of that prelate it again became vested in the crown, when the king granted it to the elder branch of the family of the Fane's, settled at Badsell, in the parish of Tudeley; the last of which, John earl of Westmoreland, died in 1762, since which time, it has, with Mereworth, devolved by the limitations of his will, to lord le Despencer, the late owner.

CAPEL is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and *deanery* of Malling. The church is dedicated to Thomas à Becket, the martyr; the body of which has been rebuilt of brick, but the chancel is very ancient. It has a tower at the west end, surmounted by a small spire.

The rectory of Capel, with the chapel belonging thereto, was anciently part of the possessions of the Knight's Hospitallers, by

whom it was annexed to the jurisdiction of their preceptory of West Peckham.

In the 22d of Henry VII. the prior and brethren of that hospital let to farm, to Sir Thomas Starkey, chaplain, their chapel, called Capel, to hold for his life, paying the yearly rental of forty shillings to the prior, and serving either by himself, or a curate in his stead, the cure of the chapel; and further that he should repair and maintain the mansion, the barn, and stable belonging to the same, with covering of straw, other stipulations being also therein mentioned.

On the dissolution of the order of Knight's Hospitallers, in the reign of Henry VIII., by an Act especially passed for that purpose, their lands and revenues were given to the king, who that year demised this rectory and chapel of Capel, with all its appurtenances, to Sir John Baker, at the yearly rent of £4. After the above period, the fee of this rectory, with the advowson of the chapel, seem to have been granted to Sir Ralph Fane, who, in the 37th year of the same reign, alienated them to Thomas Stone, of Hadlow, yeoman.

How they reverted to the family of Fane we have not ascertained, but the property was for some time, together with the manor of Tatlingbury, possessed by the elder branch, earls of Westmoreland, and has descended in like manner to lord le Despencer.

The vicars of Tudeley serve the cure of this parish, and chapelry united to that church, as before mentioned. It is not in charge in the king's books.

In 1821 there were forty-eight dwellings in the parish of Capel; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 181, females 149, making a total of 330 souls.

Tunbridge, the next parish northwestward from Capel, is written in Saxon, *Tunbryege*, or the town of bridges. In Domesday, and the *Textus Roffensis*, it is written Tonebriga, and is supposed to have derived its name from the several bridges which are built over the five streams of the river Medway, in their current through this town.

The parish of Tunbridge is very large, extending six

miles in length from north to south, and about six in breadth, its circumference being supposed to occupy about twelve miles. From its great extent, the situation as well as soil is very different in the several parts; it lies, in general, low and moist, occasioned by the many streams of the Medway which flow through this district, and at times inundate it to a considerable extent. The soil is extremely good for oak timber, of which there are numbers of large sized trees; the whole being esteemed very salubrious. The grass lands on either side of the river are fertile, and adapted to fatting cattle, being also productive of good corn and hops. At the south-west part of the parish the ground rises to the quarry hill, where the soil becomes sandy, covering the quarry-stone rock, about a mile beyond which is the hamlet of Southborough, at the extremity of the parish in that direction. The north and south parts of this parish, on the east side, are covered with the woods of the North and South Frith, the former of which joins to West Peckham, and the latter, of much larger extent, extends to within a very small distance of Tunbridge Wells, in Speldhurst. On the northern side of the latter, about a mile and a half from the town, on a pleasing eminence, is the mansion of Somerhill, belonging to Mr. Woodgate, the state apartment of which large and venerable mansion is noble and spacious, retaining its original form, gilding, and other decorations, so that the whole might, by reparation and attention to the style of architecture, be rendered a most magnificent residence. Such is the account given by Mr. Hasted, in his time; whether it has received any improvement from more modern taste, we have not learned.

Along the western side of the Frith woods runs a stream, which flows from Speldhurst, and about midway hitherward turns a mill, used for the manufacturing of gunpowder; it is situated at a place called Old Forge farm, having been in Queen Elizabeth's time, an iron foundery, subject to her use and directions; in 1763 an Act passed to enable the proprietors to continue to work the mill as a *pestle mill*, which is otherwise prohibited by law.

The town of Tunbridge is situated nearly in the centre of the parish, about thirty miles from London, on the sides of the high road leading thence to Tunbridge Wells, as well as to Cowden and Rye, in Sussex, to which places the road divides, at the

south end of the town, eastward, through Hadlow to Mereworth, and thence to Maidstone.

The river Medway crosses the town near the south end, in five streams, over which there are as many bridges. The southern was formerly the main stream of the river, but the northern, which was dug entirely to form the moat of the castle, is now the only navigable and main branch, over which was built, in 1775, on the foundations of the former structure, a new stone bridge of three arches, which cost the county £1100. It was erected from a design of Mr. Milne's, and is more calculated for utility than ornament. Just below this bridge is a spacious wharf, whereon vast quantities of the largest oak timber, brought from the wealds of Kent, are continually laid till they can be conveniently transported down the river, to the royal docks at Chatham and Sheerness. Above this point the Medway, though narrow, is navigable for small boats for about a mile, where the principal channel runs from Penshurst, which might equally be rendered navigable, with great ease and convenience, should such be considered an object of sufficient importance.

The castle of Tunbridge stood close to the river, just above the new bridge at the south-west corner of the present town. The ruins are venerable and conspicuous for some distance round, though there are at this time remaining little more than the inner gateway, a building flanked by two large circular towers, of great thickness and strength; a part of the walls round the circuit of the area, and the high mount of the keep, or dungeon, within; all of which are convincing proofs that, when in its original state, it must have been a place of no small strength and consequence, the walls having formerly enclosed no less than six acres of ground. The fortifications seem to have consisted of two spacious round towers, of about seventy feet in diameter, communicating with each other by a strong high wall, extending sixty feet from east to west; these were united to the great keep on the top of the mount, the base of which comprised the circle of an acre, and had a covered way thence to the gateway of the castle, from which there was a similar communication over the chapel to the south-east tower. The governor's domestic apartments were in the area, parallel to the south wall, which overlooks the river, and unites the two towers at the extremities, as before mentioned.

Engraved by J. Lacey

KENT

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There were formerly three moats encircling this castle, the innermost of which was formed by a new stream dug for that purpose (now the principal current of the Medway), over which was a stone bridge, joined by a strong broad wall of stone to the south-east round tower, the same having kept up a large head of water in the moat between the gateway and the *barbican*, or watchtower. The other two moats enclosed the then town of Tunbridge, the outermost of which had a drawbridge over it at the north end of the town. These moats were capable of being filled or emptied at pleasure, by a large weir and bank, which extended for the space of two miles towards Lyghe.

In former times the town of Tunbridge was little more than the suburbs belonging to the castle, which, being situated between the two outer moats, partook of the same vicissitudes of fortune as the eminent fortress itself was doomed to experience. In the reign of Henry III., Gilbert earl of Gloucester, the noble owner of this castle, having associated with the rebellious barons, the king besieged the same, and having burnt down the town, afterwards took this fortress, A. D. 1264.

The present town is situated, for the most part, northward of the castle, on the rise of a hill. Since the Medway has been rendered navigable, the trade has greatly increased, as well as the wealth and number of inhabitants; many good mansions have also been erected, and several persons of genteel fortune induced, from the salubrity of the air and pleasant situation, to fix their abodes here, particularly on the hill at the north end of the town, where there are two handsome houses, one lately the residence of Thomas Hooker, esq. lord of this manor, and the other of George Children, esq. This latter gentleman possessed a good estate in this county, and was descended from a family which was for many generations settled on an estate, called from them *Children's*, situated at Lower or Nether street, in Hildenborough, in this parish; they bore for their arms, *Or, a saltier engrailed, gules.* A descendant, John Children, esq., married Jane, daughter of John Weller, esq. of Tunbridge, by whom he had one son, George, and two daughters. He died in 1772, and was succeeded by his son George, of Tunbridge, barrister at law, who married Susanna, the second daughter of the Rev. Thomas Jordan, rector of Barming, by whom he had one son, John George Children.

Near the above mansion of Mr. Children, but on the opposite side of the road, is the free grammar-school, a well-built venerable structure, of which more will be said hereafter.

TUNBRIDGE TOWN, the principal street of which is broad and airy, is, from its situation at the rise of the hill, naturally neat and clean, and constantly kept in that state under the care of two wardens, who are chosen at the court-leet of the manor every three years; a yearly rental of £30 having been given by some persons unknown, many years ago, for this desirable purpose. A large market is kept, for cattle, on the first Tuesday in every month, and another for meat, poultry, and vegetables, every Friday. A fair is also held here for three days annually, on Ash Wednesday, July 5, and in October, for live cattle and toys.

John Willford, citizen of London, about the middle of the reign of Henry VIII., raised, at his own expense, the great stone causeway at the end of the town, on the high road to London.

Maidstone formerly possessed the privilege of a *borough*, and sent members to Parliament, but there is but one return to be found of that circumstance having occurred, which was in the reign of Edward I., when John German and John Martin were returned for this borough. An account of the dreadful storm that happened on Friday, August 19, 1763, which visited this county, first at Tunbridge Wells, and directing its course north-north-east, spread havock and desolation wherever it vented its fury, is given under the description of Maidstone.

An account of the famous medicinal waters, usually called Tunbridge Wells, situated about five miles southward from the town of Tunbridge, will be found under the parish of Speldhurst, in which they are mostly situated.

TUNBRIDGE has conferred a TITLE on several illustrious families.

Edward Stafford, the last duke of Buckingham, in the reign of Henry VIII., bore, among the other titles inherited from his ancestors, that of Baron Tunbridge, but being convicted of high treason in the 13th year of the above reign, was executed, and an Act passed under that monarch for his attainder, when, notwithstanding, a further Act passed for the restitution of his son in blood; it did not, however, extend to his honours and lands, as we have observed on previous occasions.

Richard de Burgh, earl of Clanrickard, was, by King James I., in his 22d year, created baron of Somerhill, (the name of the seat he had built in this parish,) and viscount Tunbridge, and, in the 4th of Charles I., earl of St. Alban's. He died in 1636, and was succeeded in his titles by his son and heir, Ulick, who was afterwards created marquis of Clanrickard. He died without issue male, when his titles, among which was that of viscount Tunbridge, became extinct.

William Henry de Zuleisten de Nassau, was, in the reign of King William III., created baron of Enfield, viscount Tunbridge, and earl of Rochford, in Essex. He was the son of Frederic de Nassau, lord of Zuleisten, in Holland, natural son of Henry prince of Orange, the king's grandfather. The earl of Rochford, viscount Tunbridge, died in 1708, in whose descendants these titles continued down to the Right Hon.William Henry Nassau, earl of Rochford and viscount Tunbridge.

ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION of this place in the survey of Domesday, yet the possessor, Richard de Tonebridge, or Fitz-Gislibert, is frequently mentioned, as well as the surrounding district, whereof he was equally the lord, called in that record *Leuua Recardi de Tonebrige*, or the lowy of Richard de Tonebridge.

This Richard was named Fitz-Gilbert, as being eldest son of Gilbert earl of Brion, in Normandy, son of Geoffry, natural son of Richard, the first duke of Normandy of that name.

He was one of the principal persons who came into England with the Conqueror, and attended him at the sanguinary battle of Hastings, in reward for which service, and also in consequence of his near alliance in blood, he had great honours and large possessions bestowed upon him by William the Conqueror, both in England and Normandy.

Towards the close of the reign of the above monarch, he obtained the town and castle of Tunbridge from the archbishop of Canterbury, in exchange for that of Brion, in Normandy, each being of the same extent; and, having fixed his residence in his new acquired demesnes, was thence called Richard de Tunbridge, and the district round the same, his lowy. Upon the death of the Conqueror, he favored the cause of Robert Curthose, against William Rufus, who besieged him in his castle of Tunbridge, when, being compelled to surrender, he swore allegiance to that

prince, from which period, to the death of Henry I., nothing remarkable occurred relating to him. However, soon after, he was slain in Wales, and buried at St. Neot's, in Huntingdonshire, being succeeded in all his possessions in England by Gilbert de Tunbridge, his eldest son, who, during the life of his father, in the 12th of William Rufus, taking part with Robert earl of Morton, then in rebellion, he fortified himself in his castle of Tunbridge, in that earl's behalf. The king, nevertheless, after a siege of two days, obliged Gilbert, who was wounded, to surrender this fortress, after which he died, in the reign of Henry I., leaving four sons, of whom Gilbert, the second, surnamed Strongbow, was by King Stephen, in his 3d year, created earl of Pembroke. Walter, the third son, was founder of the abbey of Tinterne, in Wales; and Baldwin, the fourth, assumed the name of Clare.

He was succeeded in this manor and castle by his eldest son, Richard, who also assumed the name of Clare, from a lordship he possessed in Suffolk, and was the first of his family who had the title of earl of Hertford, having borne for his arms, *Or, three chevrons gules.* He founded the priory of Tunbridge, and was also slain in Wales, at the latter end of the above reign, leaving several children, the eldest of whom became his heir, with the title of earl of Clare. He gave the church of Tonebrege to the monks of Lewes, in Sussex; and dying in the reign of King Stephen, was buried in the cell at Clare, which Gilbert, his grandfather, had given to the monks of Bec, in Normandy.

He was succeeded by Roger, his brother, also earl of Clare, and summoned by Archbishop Becket to appear at Westminster, to do him homage for the castle of Tunbridge, which he asserted was held of him in right of his archbishopric; this the earl, through the king's persuasion, refused to do, alleging that he held it by military service of his majesty, and not of the archbishop, who upon this pursued the claim no further.

In the 12th year of that reign, on levying the aid for the marriage of the king's daughter, he certified his knight's fees to be 149, in different counties. His gifts were numerous, to different religious houses, in manors and lands, and among others he gave to the monks of St. Augustine's, near Canterbury, a stag every year out of his forest of Tonebridge; to the Knights Hospitallers

the church of Tonebridge; and, to the canons of the priory of Begeham, in Sussex, twenty-five hogs yearly, in pure and perpetual alms. He died in the 19th of Henry II., leaving one son and heir.

Richard de Clare, who married Amicia, second daughter of William earl of Gloucester, was at length sole heir to that earldom, and by her he had Gilbert de Clare, the first who combined the titles of Gloucester and Hertford. He was one of the chief barons who bore arms against King John, upon which, Falcatius de Brent, commander of the king's forces, took the castle of Tunbridge by storm, and kept it for the king till peace was established between them, which was not until the commencement of the reign of Henry III.

Richard, his eldest son, succeeded as his heir, and being then a minor, the guardianship of his lands and honours was committed to Hubert de Burgh, grand justiciary of England, among which was the castle of Tunbridge.

Richard archbishop of Canterbury complained of this to the king, alleging that it was a fief of the archbishopric; to which the king replied, that the wardship of the young earl of right belonged to him, and it was therefore his prerogative to dispose of it to his justiciary during the minority of the heir. That answer, however, not satisfying the archbishop, he immediately carried his complaints in person to Rome, where he obtained a bull from the pope, authorising him to take possession of this castle during the minority of the earl; but dying on his journey home, in 1234, he was succeeded in the see of Canterbury by St. Edmund, to whom, it is said, the king granted the custody of the lands belonging to this castle and honour of Tonebregge and Bradested, till the earl should be of age. This grant might have been probably made two years afterwards, such being the period when this archbishop married the king to his queen Eleanor.

In the 29th year of the above reign, on the aid for marrying the king's daughter being levied, the earl paid for three hundred and four knight's fees and a half; and in the 34th year of the same monarch, the earl of Gloucester was present, with a noble attendance, at the solemn inthronization of Archbishop Boniface, when he exercised the office of chief butler and steward. Notwithstanding this, there appears to have been great contests and disputes between them, concerning the customs and services

required by the archbishop of this nobleman, touching the fees for performing those offices; all of which were settled by a mutual agreement or composition made between them a few years afterwards. On that occasion, it was agreed that the customs and services which the archbishop claimed of the earl for the manors of Tunebregge and Hanlo, with the whole Lowy of Tunbridge; and for the manors of Vyelestun, Horsemundenne, Metelune, and Pettes, with their appurtenances, should have, in future, homage of the earl, the service of four knight's fees, and suit at the court of the archbishop; and further, that he should be the archbishop's high steward, and his chief butler at the great feast of his inthronization, and perform suit at the archbishop's court at Otford, for the manor of Bradested. And it was further agreed between them, that whenever an archbishop should be inthroned in the church of Canterbury, the earl should receive, for the service of steward, seven robes of scarlet, thirty gallons of wine, fifty pounds of wax for the use of his own lights on the feast, the livery of hay and corn for eighty horses for two nights, and the dishes and salts which should be set before the archbishop at the first course in the feast; and at the departure of the earl, entertainment for three days, at the cost of the archbishop and his successors, at their manors, by the four quarters of Kent, wheresoever the earl should chuse, upon condition that the earl brought no more than fifty horsemen to be maintained: and for the service of butler, seven robes of scarlet, twenty gallons of wine, fifty pounds of wax, livery of hay and oats for sixty horses for two nights, and the cup with which he should serve before the archbishop, with other fees, of a lower description, therein mentioned.

His descendants, possessors of the manor and castle of Tunbridge, continued after this to perform these services at the inthroning of the archbishops.

In the 44th of Henry III., the earl obtained the king's licence to wall and embattle his town of Tunbridge, and to make castles of his houses in Essex and Suffolk. He died two years afterwards, at John lord Criol's mansion, at Eschemerfield, in this county, being said, by some, to have been poisoned at the table of Peter de Savoy, the queen's uncle. He was buried in the choir at Tewksbury, on the right hand of his father, his bowels at Canterbury, and his heart in Tunbridge church.

Gilbert, his eldest son, surnamed Rufus, succeeded him as earl of Gloucester and Hertford; soon after which, associating with the rebellious barons, Prince Edward, the king's son, besieged this castle, and took it, with the countess of Gloucester, the besieged having first set fire to, and burnt down the town; the castle was then garrisoned with the king's troops, and the countess set at liberty.

Before the end of that reign, the earl having joined the opposite party, was taken into royal favor, and upon the death of the king, and Prince Edward's return from the Holy Land, the earl entertained him and his whole retinue most honourably for many days, in this castle. Soon after, he was divorced from Alice his wife, and, under Edward I., married Joan of Acres, the king's daughter, as mentioned in another part of this work; in consequence of which, he then entailed all his castles and manors in England and Wales, including those of Tunbridge, Yalding, Bradested, Hadlow, and Dachurst, on his issue, and in default of the same, to her heirs and assigns, in the event of her surviving him.

In the 20th year of that reign, on a complaint being made against the earl, in Parliament, of his having committed great depredations by force and arms on the earl of Hereford's estates, in North Wales, his lands and castles were seized, and adjudged to be forfeit, during his life, when he was made prisoner till he had offered atonement. During that space of time, in the 22d year of the same reign, Prince Edward, the king's son, who was left his father's *locum tenens* during his absence in Flanders, resided at Tunbridge castle, where, in his chamber, in presence of Sir Reginald de Grey and Sir William de Badlesmere, and others, he delivered the king's seal to John de Langton, the king's chancellor. The earl died at his castle of Monmouth, in the 24th of the above reign, and was buried near his father, in Tewksbury church.

He left by Joan, his wife, who survived him, one son and heir, Gilbert, and three daughters. Gilbert earl of Gloucester and Hertford, on the death of his mother, Joan of Acres, who had remarried Ralph de Monthermer, had possession granted him of all his father's inheritance. He was captain of the vanguard of the king's army in Scotland, and killed in the battle of Bannockburn, near Stirling, in the 7th of that reign, and his

body interred in the abbey church of Tewksbury. On his death, without surviving issue, his three sisters became his coheirs, viz. Alianore, wife of Hugh le de Spencer, the younger, and secondly, of William de le Zouch, lord of Glamorgan and Morgannock; Margaret, the wife of Hugh de Audley; and Elizabeth, wife of John de Burgh, son and heir of the earl of Ulster.

On the partition of their inheritance, A. D. 1317, the castle and manor of Tunbridge were allotted to Hugh de Audley, in right of his wife, at which time it appears there were six knights' fees held of this castle. But he soon after confederating with the discontented lords, this castle, among others belonging to him, was seized on by the king, and the custody committed to Bartholomew de Badlesmere, who soon after joining the earl's party, the king conferred this trust on Henry de Cobham, whose deputy, of the name of Crevequer, having conspired to seize the castle for the use of the enemy, the king ordered it to be demolished, and Crevequer was hanged. It however appears, by a writ of Edward II., in his 16th year, that Tunbridge castle was still preserved, being one of the four places then appointed by the king for keeping the charters and records of the realm.

Hugh de Audley, in the 1st of Edward III., alleged in Parliament, that there were several errors in the prosecution instituted against him in the former reign; in consequence of which he had restitution granted him of all his castles, manors, and lands, then in the hands of the king; and in the 11th year of the same monarch, in consideration of his services and his wife's descent, was created earl of Gloucester. He died in the 21st year of that reign, leaving by Margaret his wife, an only daughter and heir, Margaret, then married to Ralph lord Stafford. The arms of Audley were, *Gules, a fret or*, and those of Stafford, impaling Audley, are carved on the rooffing of the cloisters of Christ church, Canterbury; as are those of Stafford, singly, being *Or, a chevron gules.*

Ralph lord Stafford was descended from Robert de Stafford, who, in the reign of the Conqueror, was possessed of great estates in different counties, particularly in Staffordshire, and was the eldest son of Edmund lord Stafford. In the 18th of Edward II., he was knighted and made a banneret; after which he became extremely eminent in the wars under Edward III., who conferred upon him the great office of seneschal of Aquitane.

The following year he had a high command in the van of the army, under the Black Prince, at the famous battle of Cressy, where the English obtained a glorious victory; after which engagement, being sent with Sir Reginald Cobham and three heralds to view the slain on the side of the enemy, there were found to be eleven princes, eighty bannerets, 1200 knights, and more than 30,000 common soldiers. In the 21st year of that reign he obtained, in consideration of his services, a special possession of all those lands which Hugh de Audley, earl of Gloucester, had held in right of Margaret, his wife, and was soon afterwards elected knight of the garter, at the first institution of that order by Edward III., and, in the 25th year of that reign, advanced to the title of earl of Stafford.

This great earl died far advanced in years at Tunbridge, in the 46th year of the same reign, and was buried in the priory there, with Margaret, his wife, at the feet of her father and mother, being in right of his wife possessed of the manor and castle of Tunbridge, with its members Dachurst and Hadlo.

His character is thus expressed by an old writer, *Homo quondam validus fortis, audax bellicosus, in armis strenuus, senio confectus, longo squalore maceratus.* Obiit, *Nob Comes Staffordiæ Radulphus nomine.*

Ralph earl of Stafford, his only son, succeeded him in this castle and manor, which, on his death, descended to his three sons, Thomas, William, and Edmund, in succession, all earls of Stafford. Upon the death of Thomas, the eldest earl, William, his brother and heir, being under age, Richard, the second, committed the custody of all his lands and castles to Thomas, of Woodstock, duke of Gloucester, notwithstanding the claim of Archbishop Courtenay to the custody of this of Tunbridge. On Archbishop Arundel's succeeding to the see, in the 20th year of that reign, Earl Edmund being then in ward to the king, complained highly of the injustice done to himself and the church of Canterbury in seizing its just rights and prerogatives; by which and his entreaties, he so far prevailed, that in the Parliament summoned the same year, the king granted, that the archbishop and his successors should in future have the keeping of all lands holden of him in chief, and thereupon caused the castle of Tunbridge to be delivered to him during the minority of the heir of the earl of Stafford.

Edmund earl of Stafford was succeeded by his only son and heir, Humphrey, who afterwards bore the title of earl of Buckingham, Hereford, Stafford, Northampton, and Perch, and lord of Brecknock and Holderness.

In the 23d year of the same reign, in consequence of his near alliance in blood, and for his eminent services in France, he was advanced to the title of duke of Buckingham, to hold in tail male, and made constable of Dover and Queenborough castles, and warden of the Cinque Ports. He was killed in the 38th of Henry VI., 1549, at the battle of Northampton, fighting on the king's side.

Henry, son of Humphrey, his eldest son, who was slain at the battle of St. Alban's, was his next heir.

Henry duke of Buckingham, after the death of Edward IV., became one of the chief confidants of Richard earl of Gloucester, and a principal abettor of his designs, for which he had several considerable offices conferred upon him, as well as great presents, which made him so fearless and corrupt, that he hesitated at nothing which could contribute to place the crown on the head of the protector. Having accomplished that point, he pressed for the performance of the private promises which had been made by Richard, and the new king signed a bill for his taking possession of those lands which were of great extent in different counties, to which he laid claim by descent from Humphrey Bohun, earl of Hereford.

After this, King Richard III. advanced him to the post of great chamberlain, and also conferred the high office of constable of England: but whether through a troubled conscience, or a supposition of the king's neglect, is uncertain; however, the duke soon afterwards confederated with the bishop of Ely and others, to advance the earl of Richmond to the throne. The king, at first, sought to regain the duke by fair promises, and at last by threats, which prompted him to take arms, and, with a body of the Welsh, he advanced towards the Severn, but an extraordinary flood prevented his passing for such a length of time, that the troops, for want of money and provisions, dispersed. The duke being thus forsaken, sought refuge in the house of an old servant, near Shrewsbury, whose gratitude, he imagined, would prove his security. The name of this miscreant was Banister, whom the duke had tenderly brought up; but a reward of £1000

being offered for his apprehension, the wretch betrayed him to the sheriff, who seized the duke in a grove, near Banister's house, and conveyed him to Salisbury, where he was, on the following day, without arraignment or judgment, beheaded in the open market-place, and an Act passed for his attainder. The king, soon after this, appointed his trusty friend, Robert Brakenbury, esq. constable of Tunbridge castle, with a fee of ten marks.

In the 1st of Henry VII. an Act passed for the restitution of the son and heir of Edward duke of Buckingham, who, in the 14th of the same reign, had possession granted of all his father's lands. He continued in great favor with the king; but, at the beginning of the ensuing reign, growing eminent and powerful, as well from his high blood as ample revenues, he drew on himself suspicions of his wishing to aspire still higher, which was not a little fermented by Cardinal Wolsey, who hated the duke for some expressions he had used relative to his low extraction. Upon this, he was committed on a charge of high treason, and being found guilty, beheaded on Tower hill, in the 13th of Henry VIII. An Act soon afterwards passed for his attainder, which was followed by another for the restitution of his son, Henry, in blood, which did not, however, include his honours or lands, as before observed.

The castle and manor of Tunbridge thus devolving to the crown, remained, during that reign, in the king's hands, when Edward VI., in his 4th year, granted them to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, by the description of his lordship, manor, and castle of Tunbridge, and his two parks, called the Posterne and Cage, (the former being situated southward, and the latter northward from the town,) and his forests and chases of North and South Frith, with their appurtenances, to hold *in capite* by knight's service. He was afterwards created duke of Northumberland, and in the 7th year of the same reign, reconveyed all these estates to the king, in exchange for other premises. Queen Mary afterwards granted these entire possessions to Cardinal Reginald Pole, archbishop of Canterbury, for his life, and one year after, as he should by his will determine. He died, possessed of them, November 17, 1558, being the very day the queen expired, not having made any particular devise; upon which they again passed to the crown, when Queen Elizabeth granted this castle and manor to her kinsman, Henry Carey, lord

Hunsdon, and his heirs male, to hold *in capite* by knight's service, with remainder to the crown. However, to bar the latter stipulation, he prevailed on her majesty, in the 29th year of her reign, to grant the fee of the same to Lord Burleigh and Sir Walter Mildmay; after which he suffered a recovery, and at his death, in the 38th year of that reign, gave them by will to his eldest son, George lord Hunsdon, who died in 1603. He left an only daughter and heir, married to Sir Thomas Berkley, K.B., eldest son of Lord Berkley, who soon afterwards alienated this property to Sir John Kenedie, who soon passed it away by sale to Ferners, Gosson, and Johnson; and they, by mutual consent, conveyed their joint interest, in the beginning of the reign of James I., to Sir Peter Vanlore, a wealthy merchant, who had been naturalised by Parliament. He, in 1627, settled this property, with the bulk of his very large estates in this county, Gloucester, and Hertford, on his son, Peter Vanlore, of Tilehurst, in Berkshire, and his issue male, with remainder to his own five daughters, and the three daughters of his son, all heiresses.

Peter Vanlore, the son, was, after his father's death, in 1628, created a baronet, and bore for his arms, *Or, an orle,* or *garland of woodbines* or *honysuckles proper;* and dying without issue male, left his three daughters his coheirs.

The above settlement made by the father of Sir Peter Vanlore, occasioned many suits at law between the different claimants under the same for nearly thirty years, with divisions and subdivisions, when the North Frith, part of this manor, was allotted to one of the five daughters of Sir Peter Vanlore, the elder, (the shares of the other four proceeding from different property;) she married Mr. Vander Bempde, of Westminster, who gave the property in marriage with his daughter, Charlotte, to the marquis of Annandale, who had by her two sons, George and John.

The marquis died in 1724, and was succeeded in his titles by his only son and heir by his first wife, and in this estate of North Frith, by his eldest son by his second marriage, Lord George Johnston, who, in pursuance of the will of his grandfather, John Vander Bempde, assumed that name, and, on the death of James marquis of Annandale, his half-brother, without issue, succeeded to his titles. However, being in 1745 declared a lunatic, this estate remained in the hands of commissioners ap-

pointed for that purpose, till his death in 1792, when this, among other estates, devolved to James lord Hopeton, grandson of Charles earl of Hopeton, by his wife Henrietta, half-sister to the late marquis; and this we believe was the last, and only part of the vast estate of Sir Peter Vanlore the elder, which remained in the possession of his numerous descendants.

The Manor, Castle, and other portions of the demesne lands of the manor of Tunbridge, went by virtue of the above settlement, to the three daughters of Sir Peter Vanlore, bart. the son. They married Alexander earl of Stirling, Sir Robert Cook, bart., and Henry Zinzan, esq., who, in right of their respective wives, became entitled to the same. This occasioned *another division* of the estate, which being in 1674 thrown into chancery, *the manor and castle* of Tunbridge, with some of the demesne lands, were allotted to Jacoba, the wife of Henry Zinzan, esq., and her heirs in fee; and fines were accordingly levied by the respective parties. One of her descendants, in 1739, sold the castle, manor, and demesne lands to John Hooker, esq. afterwards of Tunbridge. He was descended from a family which originally came from Hampshire, and bore for its arms, *party per pale and fess, four escalop-shells counterchanged, sable and argent.* Their first settlement in this county was at Oldberry hill, in Ightam, whence they removed to West Peckham, where John Hooker, esq. kept his shrievalty in 1712. He left two sons, Thomas and John, from which latter those of Brenchley descended. Thomas, the elder son, left an heir, John, who became the purchaser of the manor and castle of Tunbridge, and his eldest son, Thomas, succeeded him in this estate, and was of Tunbridge. In 1793 he built a handsome stone mansion for his residence, which he sold to William Woodgate, esq. of Somerhill, in this parish, who had married Frances, his sister.

A court-leet and court-baron is regularly held for this manor. There were formerly some payments disbursed for castle-guard, but they have long been disused, a few excepted, which appear to be made for encroachment on the lord's waste.

Hildenburgh is a large district, comprehending all the north-west part of the lowy of Tunbridge, containing within its bounds the manors of Hilden, Dachurst, Martin Abbey, Lamport, Nizell, Hadloe, and the district of Hollenden, the small manor of Leigh, or Hildenborough in Leigh, and the manor of Pens-

hurst Halymote; over all which district the honour of Otford has jurisdiction, the high steward, by his deputy, holding annually a court-leet in this borough, for the election of a constable and borsholder. This district, consequently, is under the jurisdiction of two different manors, which, strange as it may appear, is not at all uncommon. There are many instances where the military and civil jurisdictions of manors (if we may be allowed to make that distinction) are separated, the land or house holding of one manor by heriot relief-rent, and the occupant of the same land or house amenable by reason of his resciancy to a second manor at its court-leet, the reason of which is too obvious to need explanation.

The Manor of Dachurst lies at the western part of the lowy, having been always accounted an appendage to the manor and castle of Tunbridge, and consequently continued in the same owners till the attainder of Edward Stafford, duke of Buckingham, under Henry VIII., when it devolved to the crown, where it continued (though the demesnes were granted away,) till the death of Charles I. in 1648. At the above period, the Protector's parliament passed an ordinance to vest the royal estates in trustees, to survey and sell them, to supply the necessities of the state. This manor of Dachurst, or Hildenburgh, was therefore, in 1652, surveyed for that purpose, whereby it appeared that there were quit-rents due to the lord in this parish, held of the manor in free socage tenure, and the same from the freeholders in the boroughs of Nisellhoath and Lambert, as also from those of the parishes of Lye and Tunbridge, in the like tenure, previously reserved from the manor of Martin Abbey, the total of all which, with courts and fines, amounted to £24 10 6. It equally appeared that there was a court-leet and court-baron belonging to the same.

After the above survey, this manor, with those of Martin Abbey, Lamport, and Nizell, were sold by the State to Colonel Robert Gibbon, with whom they remained till the restoration of Charles II. in 1660, when the possession again reverted back to the crown.

King Charles II. alienated the fee-farms of these manors to Mr. George Dashwood, a younger son of the family of that name, in Somersetshire, descended from the second marriage of one of the Dashwood's, of Dorsetshire, whose eldest son, Robert,

in the 36th of Charles II., was created a baronet; and his descendant, Sir Henry, of Kirtlington, in Oxfordshire, was the owner of these manors, and the feefarms appertaining thereto.

THE DEMESNES of the manor of Dachurst, or Hildenburgh, were granted by Henry VIII., the same year that the duke of Buckingham was attainted, to Sir William Skeffington, in tail male, to hold by knight's service; and he was in that reign made master of the ordnance in England, and twice lord deputy of Ireland, in which office he died in 1535, and was buried in St. Patrick's church, Dublin, having borne for his arms, *Argent, three bulls' heads, erased, sable.*

In his descendants, residents here, this estate continued down to John Skeffington, esq., who died in 1661, without issue, and left his interest herein to his uncle, Francis Skeffington, upon whose death his relations and heirs, after one or more suits at law, agreed to divide this estate among them. It was soon afterwards sold in several parcels to different persons, one portion to the Children family, and so devolved to George Children, esq. of Tunbridge, while another was alienated to the Weller's, and became the property of Mrs. Catherine Weller, who alienated her interest therein to George Children, and William and Thomas Harvey, esqrs. At a small distance southward from Hilden green, the foundations of a large mansion are visible, supposed by many to have been those of Dachurst place. The site was in the possession of Thomas Harvey, esq., who bequeathed it to his widow Mrs. Harvey, of Tunbridge.

HILDEN is a manor situated about a mile from Tunbridge town, having been anciently part of the possessions of the family of the Vane's, written *A Vane,* in old deeds, previous to the reign of Edward III. One of that line, John Vane, esq., had two sons, each named Henry: the eldest left a daughter and heir, married to Sir Peter Blondevil: the youngest, Henry Vane, was of this place, and had three sons; John, of Hilden, ancestor of the several branches of this family, since ennobled; Thomas, whose son, Humphrey, died without issue; and Henry, who was father of Sir Ralph Vane, attainted.

By his will, in the 34th of Henry VI., he devised this manor to his eldest son, John; and the parsonage of Hilden, to his youngest son, Henry. John Vane, esq. sold this manor in the 10th of Henry VII. to the Tattersal's, one of whose descendants

possessed it at his death in the 6th of Edward VI. He was succeeded by John Tattersal, his son and heir, who alienated it to Humphrey Dixon, who had purchased the parsonage of Hilden, of Elizabeth lady Vane. He was the second son of Thomas Dixon, esq. of North Frith, in this parish, descended from a good family of that name, in Scotland, having borne for their arms, *Or, a cross formee, or patee throughout the shield, gules between four eagles displayed, sable.*

John, the eldest, succeeded him in this manor, and resided here, leaving two sons; Henry, who was of Hilden; and William, of Darent, in this county. Henry Dixon, the eldest son of Humphrey, resided here, as did his grandson of the same name, who died in 1669, leaving two daughters his coheirs, who possessed this manor in undivided moieties. Jane, the eldest, married Nathaniel Booth, esq.; and Sarah, Percival Hart, esq. of Lullingstone.

Percival Hart, esq. died in 1738, leaving an only daughter and heir, Anne, then married to Sir Thomas Dyke, bart., who became possessed of one undivided moiety of this manor, as he did likewise of the other, on the death of Mrs. Jane Booth, without issue, in 1743. Sir Thomas Dyke died in 1756, leaving his widow possessed of the whole of this manor, till her death in 1763, when it descended to their only son and heir, Sir John Dixon Dyke, bart. of Lullingstone, who, procuring the authority of Parliament, sold it in 1767 to Thomas Harvey, esq. of Tunbridge, the son of Thomas Harvey, of Deal, descended from the family of the Harvey's, settled as early as the reign of Edward IV. at Tilmanstone, in East Kent, and afterwards dispersed over the several parishes in this neighbourhood. He had two sons and three daughters, and died in 1779, leaving his widow in possession of this estate for her life, with remainder to her eldest son, the Rev. Thomas Harvey.

At a small distance from Hilden green stood the manor-house, the ruins of which were entirely removed by Sir Thomas Dyke.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

Philipotts is an estate in this parish, about three miles from the town of Tunbridge, adjoining to Lyghe, which was once reputed a manor, but has long since lost that name, there being now but thirty acres of land belonging to the same. It formerly gave surname to the family who owned it, as appears by a deed,

dated in the 28th of Edward I., wherein John de Philipott, of Philipotts, (who bore for his arms, *Sable, a bend ermine,*) demised lands to Robert Charles, bailiff of Tunbridge forest. This place having remained for many generations in the above family, Thomas Philipott left an only daughter and heir, Chritiana, who, in the reign of Henry VIII., carried it in marriage to John Petley, esq. of Downe, who likewise died without issue male, leaving four daughters his coheirs; of whom the youngest was married, first, to one Smith, and secondly to Mr. Children, who became, on the division of their inheritance, entitled to this estate. His descendant, William Children, resided at this seat, and died about the latter end of the reign of Charles I., leaving an only daughter and heir, Sindonia, who carried it in marriage to Mr. Richard Polhill, of Detling, in whose descendants it continued down to Mr. Richard Polhill, of Chatham, in this county.

There is a tradition in the above family, that one of the name was bow-bender to Queen Elizabeth, and not many years ago, there hung up in this house, a bow, curiously enamelled and studded, which was said to have belonged to that queen.

Barden lies southwestward from the town of Tunbridge, and was, no doubt, a manor formerly of some consequence, as it confers its name to a *borough* here, of considerable extent.

In the 20th year of the reign of Edward III. Roger de Bardenham, prior of Tunbridge, held this estate, for which he paid aid as one knight's fee, the prior and Simon de Barden having before held the same of the duke of Gloucester.

The family of Barden continued in possession of this manor till the reign of Henry IV., when it was alienated by one of that line to the Hadlow's, in which race it did not long continue, as John Hadlow dying without issue, Alice, his sister, became his heir, and entitled her husband, John Woodward, to its possession. She survived him, and sold it to John Hopday, who in the 38th of Henry VI., alienated this manor to William Hextall, of Hextall's court, in East Peckham, who, dying without issue male, Margaret, his daughter and heir, carried it in marriage to William Whetnall, esq., their descendant. William Whetnall, of Hextall's court, alienated this property in the reign of Henry VIII. to the Vane's, from which name it passed by sale to Sir Andrew Judd, lord mayor of London in the 5th of Edward VI.,

who bore for his arms, *Gules, a fess ragule, between three boars' heads erased, fesswise argent.* He was the eldest son of John Judde, of Tunbridge, and dying in 1558, was buried in St. Helen's church, in London, having founded a school in this parish, which he endowed with lands, intrusting the same to the care of the Skinner's company. He left an only daughter and heir, married to Thomas Smith, commonly called the *customer*, who in her right became entitled to a part of this estate, called *Barden House farm*, with the lands belonging thereto, all of which he devised by will to his second son, Sir Thomas Smith, of Sutton at Hone, in whose descendants they continued down to Robert Smith, esq. of Sutton and Bidborough. He died in 1695, leaving by Catherine his wife, who survived him, two sons, Henry and William, to whom this estate descended as heirs in *gavelkind*, after which, in the reign of William III., she obtained an Act for vesting them in trustees, to sell the property, who accordingly conveyed it by sale to Thomas Streatfield, esq., whose descendant, Thomas Streatfield, esq. of Sevenoak, afterwards owned this estate.

The other part of Barden, containing the manor, seems to have passed, on the death of Sir Andrew Judd, to one of his brothers, who, in the 33d of Elizabeth, alienated it to one Johnson, who sold it, under Charles I., to John Polhill, esq. of Otford; from whom it descended to Charles Polhill, esq. of Chepsted, in Chevening.

Hadlow is a small manor adjoining that of Barden, last mentioned, being called, to distinguish it from the manor of the adjoining parish of Hadlow, *the manor of Hadlow Tunbridge.* It had anciently owners of the same name, in whom it remained till about the reign of Henry V., when John Hadlow dying without issue, Alice, his sister, having married, as before mentioned, John Woodward, became his heir, whose son, in the reign of Henry VI., conveyed his interest to William and Henry Hextall, when the latter released his right to his brother, William, who dying without issue male, his daughter entitled her husband, William Whetnall, to the possession of this property. His descendant, in the reign of Henry VIII., sold this manor to William Waller, esq., whose son, in 1583, alienated it to Mr. George Stacy, who conveyed the same, in 1590, to Robert Byng, esq. of Wrotham; when, in 1623, it was, by his

two grandsons, sold to David Polhill, esq. of Otford, whose descendant, Charles, was the last possessor of the same.

A court-baron was called for this manor many years ago, but no person having attended the summons, it does not appear probable that any court will again be held for this estate.

The borough of South, or Southborough, is a *district* comprehending the southern part of the Lowy of Tunbridge, wherein *the manor of that name* first claims our attention. It was anciently part of the possessions of the great family of the Clare's, earls of Gloucester, and lords of the castle and manor of Tunbridge, from whom, in like manner, it passed to the Audley's and Stafford's; in which last line it continued till the attainder of the duke of Buckingham, when this manor was, with the rest of his possessions, forfeited to the crown; after which, Henry VIII., in the 14th year of his reign, granted it to Sir Thomas Moore, to hold *in capite* by knight's service.

Sir Thomas More being a man of great abilities and learning, he was, in the 22d year of that reign, made lord chancellor, which high office, after the lapse of two years and a half, he surrendered up, wishing to decline all interference in the king's rupture with the pope; and subsequently refusing the oath of supremacy and succession, he was arraigned, when, being found guilty of high treason, he was executed on Tower hill, six days after. This great man was the only son of Sir John More, one of the justices of the King's Bench; and had one son, John, who was attainted after his death, and then pardoned by the king; and three daughters, of whom, Margaret, was a lady of the greatest wisdom, piety, and learning, who married William Roper, esq. of Eltham. After his death, the body was first buried in the chapel of the Tower, and thence removed to Chelsea church. His head was set upon London bridge, where it continued fourteen days; and was then privately bought by his daughter, Mrs. Roper, who caused it to be enclosed in lead, and deposited in the vault of the Roper's, in St. Dunstan's church, near Canterbury; where the box remained, placed on her coffin, after her death.

This manor thus devolving to the crown, was granted by the king, the same year, to George Bulleyn, viscount Rochford, son of Thomas earl of Wiltshire and Ormond, and brother of Queen Anne Bulleyn, to hold *in capite* by knight's service. But the

king's affections having changed towards her, the lord Rochford was, the next year, committed to the Tower, under the infamous pretence of too great familiarity with his own sister, and being found guilty of high treason, was beheaded. This property thus coming to the crown, was granted, the following year, to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, who, together with Joan, his wife, again passed this manor of Southborough, with its appurtenances, called South Tunbridge, Capel, Speldhurst, and Pembury, to the king, in exchange for other premises.

In the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, this manor was in the possession of Sir Richard Sackvyle, who, in the 19th year of that reign, alienated it to Thomas Smith, esq. of Westenhanger, who gave it by will to his second son, Sir Thomas Smith, of Sutton at Hone; in whose descendants it continued down to Sir Sydney Stafford Smith, chief baron of the Exchequer. He died possessed of the property in 1778, as did his widow, Lady Sarah Smith, in 1790, who devised the same in trust for the benefit of her nephews and nieces; and they afterwards sold it to the earl of Darnley, who possessed the same. A court-baron is regularly held for this manor.

Haysden, or *East Haysden*, is a small manor lying at the southwestern extremity of the *Lowy*, and was, some years back, in the possession of the Turner's; whence it was sold to Mr. John Groombridge, whose widow remarrying Henry Goodwyn, esq. of Enfield, he in her right became entitled to the possession of the same. A court-baron is held for this manor.

As there was a large district comprehending a manor, forest or chase, with a park enclosed by pales, at the northern part of the *Lowy*, called *North Frith*, there was also another district, though of much larger extent, called *South Frith*, at the opposite or southern side, having a park also enclosed within its boundaries.

This district was, no doubt, part of the demesnes of the family of the Clare's, earls of Gloucester and Hertford, with whom it continued till Gilbert de Clare, the only son and heir of Gilbert earl of Gloucester and Hertford, dying without surviving issue, in the 8th of Edward II., his three sisters became his coheirs; and upon a division of their inheritance, though Hugh de Audley, in right of his wife, Margaret, the second daughter and coheir, had the castle and manor of Tunbridge allotted to

to him; nevertheless, Elizabeth, the youngest, widow of John de Burgh, seems to have possessed this district of *South Frith*, and the honour of Clare, in Suffolk, as part of her share. She had, by her husband above mentioned, a son, named William, who, on the death of his grandfather, became earl of Ulster, bearing for his arms *Or, a cross gules;* and, on his mother's death, inherited this estate. He left an only daughter and heir, Elizabeth, who married Lionel, third son of King Edward III., and duke of Clarence, and was in her right created earl of Ulster, and lord of Connaught and Trime.

The duke died in the 43d year of that reign, at Alba Pompeii, in Italy, possessed of this estate of South Frith, leaving an only daughter and heir, Philippa, who, about the time of her father's death, was married, by command of the king, to Edward Mortimer, third earl of March, and lord of Wigmore, who died in Ireland in the 5th of Henry VI. without issue. His nephew, Richard duke of York, the only son of Richard earl of Cambridge, by Anne Mortimer, his eldest sister, became by his uncle's will, heir to his estates, and also to this property of South Frith, which he did not possess till the death of the countess, under Henry VI. He was, both on his father's and mother's side, descended from King Edward III., and aspiring to the crown, endeavoured to crush the house of Lancaster; but in the 37th of King Henry VI., being deserted by his army, fled to Ireland, and was soon after attainted in Parliament, with his son, the earl of March. This estate then became forfeited to the crown, where it did not long remain, as, on the change of fortune, which occurred soon after, the duke of York regained possession, and died holding this chase, with its appendages, in the 3d of Edward IV. Cecilie duchess of York, his widow, and mother of Edward IV., remained possessed of this estate till her death, which happened in the 10th of Henry VIII., when the property reverted back to the crown, and was by that monarch granted to George lord Cobham, invested with the office of master, manager, and supervisor of all the beasts of his park of South Frith, and keeper of all his ponds and waters therein; but the fee remained in the crown till the reign of Edward VI., who granted South Frith, with the forest and chase, to John Dudley, earl of Warwick.

This earl, afterwards duke of Northumberland, reconveyed the

estate in exchange to the king, when Queen Mary granted the same to Reginald Pole, archbishop of Canterbury, to hold during his life. He died in 1558, when it devolved to the crown, and was given by Queen Elizabeth, in the 14th year, to her favorite, Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester, for a term of years, at the expiration of which she granted the fee of the same to Frances, widow of Robert Devereux, earl of Essex, sole daughter and heir of that great statesman, Sir Francis Walsingham, whose first husband was the renowned Sir Philip Sidney. The countess afterwards again remarried Richard Burgh, earl of Clanrickard, whom Smollet says, was a very handsome gallant young nobleman, and so much like the late earl of Essex, that the queen, then far advanced in years, made some overtures to him, which he declined. He became by that marriage possessed of South Frith, and built a noble mansion, at a very great expense, on a pleasant eminence, northward of this estate, which was not finished till the reign of James I., to which he gave the name of SOMERHILL. In the 22d year of that reign, he was created baron Somerhill, viscount Tunbridge, and in the 4th of Charles I. earl of St. Alban's, at which period he had other Irish honours conferred upon him, viz. baron of Imaudy, in Connaught, and viscount Galloway, bearing for his arms, *Or, a cross, gules, in the dexter canton, a lion rampant, sable.* He resided for the most part at Somerhill, and dying in 1636, was buried in Tunbridge church. Ulick, his son and heir, long bore arms in the cause of Charles I., in Ireland, whence being obliged to fly, he sought refuge in England with the king, who, in 1645, created him marquis of Clanrickard. His attachment to the royal cause was a sufficient reason for the sequestration of his estates by the Parliament, as well as parcel of the estate of the earl of St. Alban's, which had been previously seized, he having been a Papist, when both were granted to Robert earl of Essex, in recompense for his heroic valour, prudent conduct, and *unspotted* fidelity, in the high and important command of captain general of the Parliament forces, to hold during his life, being part of the yearly sum of £10,000 voted to him. The earl of Essex died possessed of this estate, not without suspicion of having been poisoned, who had a most magnificent funeral performed over him, at the charge of Parliament, with a grand procession of state to the place of his interment, in St. Paul's chapel, in Westminster abbey. Upon his

death, this estate again devolved to the Parliament, which soon after granted it to John Bradshaw, sergeant at law. He died possessed of the same in 1659, and was buried, with great solemnity, in St. Peter's church, in Westminster; but the following year his body was disinterred, and hanged on the gallows at Tyburn, under which it was afterwards buried, and the head being cut off, was set on Westminster Hall. He was succeeded by a natural son, but upon the restoration of Charles II., a few months afterwards, this estate of South Frith, with the seat and park of Somerhill, returned to its lawful owner, in the person of Margaret, only daughter and heir of Ulick marquis of Clanrickard, above mentioned, who had died in 1659, and was buried in the church of Tunbridge. Mr. Hasted says that, in his time, there were several old people, a few years previous, who remembered an old man in the neighbourhood, reputed to have been a natural son of John Bradshaw, who was also reported to have once possessed Somerhill.

Margaret, the above-mentioned heir of Ulick, was then the wife of Charles M'Carty, viscount Muskerry, eldest son of Donough earl of Clancarty, who in her right possessed this estate. He was killed in the great engagement with the Dutch, at Solebay, in 1665, by a cannon-ball, which at the same time deprived the earl of Falmouth of life, as well as Richard Boyle, son of Lord Burlington. Charles viscount Muskerry thus dying without issue, his widow remarried John Villiers, viscount Purbeck, nephew to the duke of Buckingham, the great favorite of King James and Charles I.

Viscount Purbeck possessed this estate in right of his wife, and on the death of his mother, Mary countess of Buckingham, claimed that title before the house of Lords, in 1667, which was disallowed, yet notwithstanding he continued to assume the same, having always subscribed himself Buckingham. He died, leaving by Margaret his wife, one son, John, who likewise bore the title of earl of Buckingham. Margaret surviving her husband, again possessed this estate in her own right, and remarried the third time, Mr., commonly called, Beau Fielding, having, by her expensive way of living, wasted her estates, and sold them piecemeal to different persons, when she died in great distress about the year 1698.

On her demise her son, John Villiers, calling himself earl of

Buckingham, became possessed of Somerhill house and park, which last property had been let to one Warrener, and also those demesnes of South Frith, which remained unsold by his mother. Soon after the above period, he alienated the manor of South Frith, with Somerhill, to one Dekins, and all the residue of the demesne lands possessed by him here, amounting to about 1200 acres, to Abraham Hill, esq. of Sutton at Hone, in whose name and family they continued till William Hill, esq. of Carwithenick, in Cornwall, about the year 1768, alienated them to Mr. Edward Whatmore, of Salisbury. He afterwards sold them to James Templar, esq. of Westminster, from whom they descended to the Rev. John Templar. BUT THE MANOR OF SOUTH FRITH, *with the house and park of Somerhill,* was devised by Mr. Dekins, who died without issue, to one Cave, who conveyed this estate to Mr. John Woodgate, of Chepsted, in Penshurst, the ancestors of whose family resided at Stonewall, in Chidingstone, and bore for their arms, *on a chevron, three acorns between three squirrels, sejant.* The first of this name, of whom we have any account, married Joan, daughter of Robert Cambridge, of Coldharbour, in Penshurst, whose son, William, was father of John Woodgate, the purchaser of Somerhill, to which seat he removed from Penshurst. He left three sons and six daughters.

Henry, the second son, succeeded him in this estate, but resided at Tunbridge, where he died unmarried in 1787, and by will gave this property to his eldest nephew, who resided at Somerhill, and married Frances, daughter of Thomas Hooker, esq. of Tunbridge, by whom he had three sons; William Francis, esq. who married Miss Alnutt; Henry, and John; and three daughters; Frances, married to Richard Alnutt, esq. of South Park, in Penshurst; and Anne, and Maria. He resided at Somerhill, of which he was ultimately possessed.

There is a court-baron held for this manor, several of the tenants whereof hold by copy of court-roll, which is not very frequent in this part of the county.

NEW or LITTLE BOUNDS is a seat in this parish, situated at the southern boundary of the same, and was so called to distinguish it from the seat of Old Bounds, in the adjoining parish of Bidborough. It was built by the lord chief baron Bury, on a piece of ground, part of that estate granted to him by a representative of the family of the Smith's, and passed from one of

his descendants, Dorothy, daughter of William lord Rokeby, of Shellow, in Yorkshire, by Emma, his wife, eldest daughter of Sir William Bury, of Grantham, in marriage, about the latter end of the last century, to Sir Thomas J'anson, who died possessed of it in 1707. His son, Sir Thomas J'anson, also resided here, and dying in 1764, was buried near his father, in this church. On the monuments erected to their memories, they are styled baronets, but we cannot find when the patent was granted. He left two sons, Thomas and John, and several daughters; of which latter, Sir Thomas J'anson, the eldest son, resided here, and was gentleman porter of the Tower of London.

He died in 1773, leaving his widow surviving, on whose demise, in 1774, this property descended to their son, Mr. John J'anson, who alienated it to chief baron Smith, who died in 1778, as did his widow, Lady Smith, in 1790, when she by will devised this estate to trustees, for the benefit of her nephews and nieces, who afterwards sold the same to the earl of Darnley.

Calverley is another seat situated likewise near the southern bounds of this parish, at no great distance from Tunbridge Wells, and was, many years back, the property of William Strong, esq.; from whom it passed into the possession of Thomas Panuwell, esq., who died unmarried in 1750, and was buried in this church. By his will he gave this seat to his friend, Thomas Smith, esq., who assumed the name of Panuwell, and dying in 1786, was succeeded by his son, of the same name, who resided there.

The priory of Tunbridge was founded, about the latter end of the reign of Henry II., by Richard de Clare, first earl of Hertford, and lord of this place, for monks of the *Premonstratensian* order, commonly called *White canons*, and was dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen.

Richard de Clare, by his foundation charter to this priory, situated within his manor of Tonebregge, gave to the canons regular, therein, ten marks, to be received annually from his manor of Tonebregge; and 51s. 5d., to be received from all the effects, old as well as new, of his land, called *Dennemannesbrock*, in Yalding; and also, yearly, 120 hogs in his forest of Tonebregge, free from pannage; and that the canons should have two horses (*summarius*), every day, to carry the dead wood home to them; and one stag, yearly, to be taken by the earl's men.

In 1351 a sudden and dreadful fire broke out in this priory, which consumed every part to the foundation, together with all their vestments, ornaments, jewels, and furniture, which losses were, however, soon repaired, by the appropriation of the church of Leghe; in the instrument for which, the church, chapter-house, dormitory, refectory, library, and vestry of this priory, are said to have been *edificia splendida et nobilia*. This priory remained thus situated till the reign of Henry VIII., when Cardinal Wolsey being desirous of founding two colleges, the king, in his 17th year, granted this among other suppressed manasteries, to that prelate, for their endowment, but, by the disgrace of the cardinal, four years after, they became forfeited to the king, and consequently devolved to the crown.

King Edward VI., in his 4th year, granted the late priory of Tunbridge, with its manors, lands, and possessions, to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, to hold *in capite* by knight's service, all which the earl reconveyed to the king, in exchange for other premises. Queen Mary then granted this priory to Cardinal Reginald Pole, who dying in 1558, it again became part of the revenues of the crown.

Queen Elizabeth gave the site of this priory to Sir Henry Sidney, and afterwards to dame Ursula Walsingham, after which it passed into the possession of the lady viscountess Purbeck, who sold it to the family of the Poley's, in which it continued till it was devised by will to George Weller, esq. of Tunbridge, who bore for his arms, *Sable, two chevronels between three roses argent*. He changed his name to Poley, and afterwards resided at Boxted hall, in Suffolk, and his son, George Weller Poley, esq., of that place, afterwards possessed this property, and died in 1780, on which this estate became the property of his brother, the Rev. John Weller Poley.

The buildings of this priory appear to have been very extensive, from the foundations still visible; what remains seems to have been some part of the great hall and the chapel, which are at present made use of as a barn and oast stowage. Messrs. Buck, in 1735, engraved a south view of the ruins of this edifice.

Many years back there was dug up, among these ruins, a stone coffin, containing a skeleton, which, on being exposed to the air, quickly mouldered into dust.

In the grounds belonging to the priory, at a small distance

Drawn by T. M. Baynes.

from the site southward, is a *well*, dedicated to St. Margaret, formerly walled round, which was much resorted to before Tunbridge wells came into vogue. It appears, from the ochreous sediment, to be strongly impregnated by mineral, but does not sparkle like the waters of those wells.

The free Grammar-School, standing at the north end of the town of Tunbridge, was founded by Sir Andrew Judd, a native of this place, and citizen of London. He erected the school house, with some other buildings belonging to the same, and, intending to endow it, purchased lands in the name of himself and Henry Fisher, intrusting the management of the same, and the school, to the Skinners' company, in London. He subsequently procured the letters patent of Edward VI. for the founding this institution, having stipulated that it should be called, *The free grammar-school of Sir Andrew Judde, in the town of Tunbridge.*

Sir Andrew died in 1558, and by will bequeathed the lands so purchased, to that company, for the use of the school, but, after his death, Andrew Fisher, his son, endeavoured to impeach these conveyances, but the whole having been examined in Parliament in the 14th of Queen Elizabeth, an Act passed for the assurance of these lands to the above school, the amount whereof was £56 0 4 per annum, being situated in different parishes in the city of London, and St. Pancras, near the same.

Since the above period, *the company of Skinners* has executed this trust with great liberality, having both improved and augmented the original foundation. The members thereof have doubled the salary of the master, which was £20 a year, and allowed a handsome gratuity to the usher, in addition to his stipend, and have usually conferred annuities for life upon such superannuated masters as have stood in need of the same, and have frequently continued the allowance to their representatives.

The original building of this school extended in front nearly 100 feet in length, and was constructed in a plain, but neat and uniform style, with the sandstone of the neighbouring country. At the back part there is a considerable addition to the habitation of the master, erected by the Skinners' company in 1676, together with a hall or refectory for the use of the scholars; and a small, yet elegant library, built at the joint expense of the

patrons of the school; there are also detached offices, a garden, and a playground belonging to the same.

The greatest benefactor to this school, after the foundation thereof, was Sir Thomas Smith, second son of customer Smith, by Alice, daughter and heir of Sir Andrew Judde, who bequeathed lands to the Skinners' company in trust for this institution.

There are *several exhibitions* appropriated to this school, which were paid in exhibitions, of £10 a year each, for seven years, to six poor scholars who should repair immediately thence to either of the universities. Sir Thomas White, lord mayor of London, in 1554, also bestowed benefactions, both liberal and extensive, he having been an intimate friend of Sir Andrew Judde.

This school continues under the management of the company of Skinners, who, in pursuance of the statutes, visit the same annually, in the month of May, at a great expense, on which occasion they are attended, as the statute directs, by a respectable clergyman of London, whose business it is to examine the several classes of the school. On the arrival of the company in their carriages, at the gates of the school, a congratulatory oration, in Latin, is spoken by the head boy. The company then proceed to church, where they distribute bread, money, and clothes, to a number of poor persons of the parishes of Tunbridge, Bidborough, and Speldhurst, according to the will of Sir Thomas Smith. On their return, after a cold collation, they survey the buildings, and give orders for all necessary repairs; they then proceed to the school, where, after the delivery of a few Latin orations, the examination begins, at the close of which, the whole company, including visitors and their friends, with the neighbouring gentry and clergy, retire to dinner, which is served up in the library and other rooms, in the master's house. At five o'clock they return to the school, when the grammatical disputations, a very ancient exercise, are commenced by the six senior scholars, which conclude with the repetition of English or Latin verses. The examiner then distributes, according to the statutes, as an honorary reward, a silver pen, gilt, to each of the six senior scholars, who on that day walk in procession to the church, before their patrons, with garlands of fresh flowers on their heads; such being the form constantly observed ever since

the foundation of this seminary. The school has uniformly maintained a good reputation, as well for the learning of the scholars educated there, as the eminent abilities of the masters who have from time to time presided over this institution.

TUNBRIDGE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul, is a large handsome building, having a square tower at the west end, and was much ornamented, some years back, in consequence of a legacy left by Mr. Hooper. There are many monuments in the different parts of this edifice for the owners of estates in the vicinity, and the principal inhabitants of the parish.

At the south-east corner is a handsome tomb, with a carved urn, erected in memory of the celebrated Anne Elliot, the actress, a native of this parish, whose remains were deposited in the vault beneath : she died in 1769, æt. 26.

Gilbert de Clare, earl of Hertford, is said to have given this church to the monks of Lewes, in Sussex ; and on his death, without issue, in 1151, his brother and heir, Roger de Clare, earl of Hertford, resumed the property, giving to the monks the church of Blechingley, in exchange for the same. Henry II., by his charter, gave to the brethren of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, the church of Tunbridge, with the chapel and appurtenances, to the use of the poor of that hospital, in pure and perpetual alms ; and by another grant, he gave and confirmed to that fraternity, the advowson of this church, and all rights which he possessed therein. In the 52d of Henry III. it was affirmed that the bishop received an annual pension of three marks from the parish-church of Tunbridge, towards the revenues of his table. In the 18th of Henry VIII. the prior and brethren of the hospital demised to Richard Fane, gent. of Tudeley, their parsonage of Tunbridge, with all its appurtenances, excepting the advowson, and the woods and underwoods, at the yearly rental of £14 ; in which state this church continued at the dissolution, in the 32d year of the above monarch, when the order was suppressed by an Act specially passed for that purpose, upon which the lands and revenues were given to the king, where the fee continued till Edward VI. in his 1st year, granted both the rectory and advowson to Sir Ralph Fane, and Lady Elizabeth, his wife, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service.

On the death of Sir Ralph, Lady Elizabeth, his widow, became possessed of this estate; and in the 2d and 3d of Philip and Mary, alienated the rectory to Henry Stubberfield, yeoman of Tunbridge, who sold it to Alexander Colepeper, by the description of the rectory of Tunbridge, in the wards of Tunbridge, Southborough, and Branbridge, and in the great park of South Frith, the Postern, and the Cage, parcel of the rectory.

He passed it away by sale in the 7th of Queen Elizabeth, to William Denton, esq., originally of Cumberland, whose eldest son, Sir Anthony, possessed it at his death, in the 25th year of that reign, it being then held *in capite*, by knight's service. He was one of the gentlemen of the band of pensioners, as well to that queen, as also king James I., and dying in 1615, was buried in this church, where his monument remained, with the figures at full length, of himself and Elizabeth, his wife, both reclining on cushions, the former in armour, the latter habited in the dress of that period. She afterwards married Sir Paul Dewes, of Suffolk, on whose death the property descended to his nephew, William Denton, esq., and his three brothers, Anthony, Walter, and Arthur, sons of Sir Alexander Denton, by Anne, granddaughter of Lord Windsor, who sold this parsonage in different parcels, to some in districts or tithe wards, and to others as their own lands only, which accounts for the several lands in this parish that are now, and have from time to time been exempt from the payment of the rectorial tithes.

This parsonage consists at present of the tithe wards of *Haisden* and *Little Barden*, formerly the property of John Petley, esq. of Oldberry hill, in Ightham, who probably purchased them of the Denton's.

He lived in the reign of Charles I., and at his death devised them to Gilbert Wood, gent. of Market cross, in Sussex, who had married Elizabeth, his daughter. Their son, J. Wood, of Tunbridge, left issue an only daughter and heir, Elizabeth, who married John Hooker, esq. of Tunbridge, the late possessor.

The advowson, however, of the vicarage of this church, continued in the family of the Fane's, or Vane's, seated at Hadlow place, in the adjoining parish of that name, in which it continued down to William viscount Vane, who, dying in 1789, gave this advowson, among the rest of his estates in this county,

to David Papillon, esq. of Acrise, who ultimately possessed the same.

The vicarage of Tunbridge was valued in the king's books at £20 3 4, and the yearly tenths at £2 0 4.

In 1821 there were 1155 dwellings in the parish of Tunbridge; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 3532, females 3874, making a total of 7406 souls.

HUNDRED OF SOMERDEN.

This hundred contains part of the parishes of Hever, Cowden, Chidingstone, Penshurst, Lyghe, and Speldhurst, with the churches of those parishes. Also a part of the parishes of *Chevening* and *Eatonbridge*, the churches of which are in another hundred.

There is not any description of the above places within this hundred in the survey of Domesday, nor indeed, to the best of our recollection, is there a description in that record of any of the parishes situated wholly within the Weald, except of those of Hadlow and Tudeley; the court-leet of the hundred of Somerden being an appendage to the honour of Otford.

Hever lies southeastward from Eatonbridge, and is called in the *Textus Roffensis*, and various ancient records, *Heure*, and in others, *Exere*. This parish lies below the sand hill, and is consequently in that district of the county called *the Weald*. There is a small portion denominated the borough of Linckhill, comprehending part of this parish, Chidingstone, and Hever, which is within the hundred of Ruxley, being part of the manor of Great Orpington, the manorial rights having belonged to Sir John Dixon Dyke, bart., who was owner of the manor.

The parish of Hever is long and narrow from north to south, the soil and face of the country being the same as that of Eatonbridge, the oak trees flourishing in great plenty, and in general growing to a very large size. The river Eden directs its course across the district towards Penshurst, and the Medway flows near the walls of Hever castle, about a quarter of a mile southward from which is the village of Hever, and the parsonage. Near the northern side of the river is the seat of Polebrooke, late Douglas's, afterwards Mrs. Susannah Payne's; and a little farther, the hamlets of How green and Bowbeach; part of Linckhill borough, which is also in the hundred of Ruxley, extends into this parish.

There is an old traditional saying handed down here, and frequently used among the common people, being as follows,

"Jesus Christ never was but once at Hever,
And then he fell into the river:"

which we can only account for, by supposing that it alluded to a priest, who, in conveying *the Host* to a sick person, in his passage over a bridge, fell into the river.

Hever was once the capital seat and manor of a family of that name, its more ancient possessions having lain at Hever, near Northfleet, in this county, which race bore for their arms, *Gules, a cross argent*, that shield, with a *sable of three points, azure*, having remained in the late Mote-house, in Maidstone, being also quartered in the same manner by the earls of Thanet, one of whose ancestors, Nicholas Tufton, of Northiam, married Margaret, daughter and heir of John Hever, of this county.

William de Hevre possessed a moiety of this place, under Edward I., in the 2d year of which reign he was sheriff of this county, and in the 9th of the same obtained a grant of *free warren* within his demesne lands in Hevre, Chidingstone, and Lingefield.

Sir Ralph de Hevre seems at this time to have possessed the other moiety of this parish, between whose son and heir Ralph, and Nicholas, abbot of St. Augustine's, there had been, as appears by the register of that abbey, several disputes concerning lands in Hever, which were settled in the 4th of Edward I., by the abbot granting to him and his heirs for ever, the land which he held of him in that place, to hold by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee.

William de Hever, in the reign of Edward III., became possessed of the whole of this manor, and new built the mansion, which he obtained leave to embattle; soon after, he died, leaving two daughters his coheirs; one of whom, Joan, carried a moiety of this estate in marriage to Reginald Cobham, a younger son of the Cobham's, of Cobham, in this county, whence this part of Hever, to distinguish it from the other, acquired the name of Hever Cobham.

His son, Reginald lord Cobham, in the 14th of the above reign, obtained a charter of *free warren* within his demesne

lands in Hever, and was succeeded by his son, Reginald lord Cobham, who was of Sterborough castle, in Surrey, whence this branch was styled the Cobham's, of Sterborough.

The other moiety of Hever, by Margaret, the sister and coheir, went in marriage to Sir Oliver Brocas, and thence acquired the name of Hever Brocas. One of his descendants alienated it to Reginald lord Cobham, of Sterborough, who died possessed of both these manors in the 6th of Henry IV.

His grandson, Sir Thomas Cobham, sold these manors to Sir Geoffry Bulleyn, a wealthy mercer of London, who was lord mayor in the reign of Henry VI. He died possessed of both these manors in the 3d of Edward IV., leaving by Anne his wife, Sir William Bulleyn, of Blickling, in Norfolk, who married Margaret, daughter and coheir of Thomas Boteler, earl of Ormond. By that alliance he had a son and heir, Thomas, who became a man of great note in the reign of Henry VIII., that monarch having married his daughter; wherefore, in the 17th of that reign, he was created viscount Rochford, and in the 21st year of the same, elected knight of the garter, and constituted earl of Wiltshire and Ormond, viz. Wiltshire to his heirs male, and Ormond to his heirs general.

He resided here, and added greatly to the buildings which his grandfather, Sir Geoffry Bulleyn, had commenced in his time; all of which he completely finished, when this seat was called Hever castle.

He died in the 30th year of the above reign, possessed of this castle, with the two manors of Hever Cobham and Brocas, leaving by his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Howard, duke of Norfolk, one son, George, executed during his lifetime; and two daughters, Anne, the unfortunate wife of Henry VIII.; and Mary, wife of William Carey, esquire, of the bodyguard, and ancestor of the lords Hunsdon and earls of Dover and Monmouth.

On the death of the earl of Wiltshire, without issue male, Henry VIII. seized on this castle and manors in right of his late wife, Anne Boleyn, daughter of the earl, who had resided at Hever castle while the king courted her, there being letters extant, written by that prince and Anne Boleyn, from and to this place, her chamber there still bearing her name; while a small portrait, painted on panel, and an heirloom, is there pre-

served, conveying a very faint idea of the beauty which that ill-fated lady is said to have displayed in her person.

These estates remained in the king's hands till the 32d year of his reign, when he granted to the Lady Anne, of Cleves, his repudiated wife, his manors of Hever, Seale, and Kemsing, to hold during her life, so long as she should stay within the realm, and not depart thence without his licence, at the yearly rental of £93 13 3½, payable at the court of Augmentation. She died possessed of this castle, manor, and estate of Hever, in the 5th of King Philip and Queen Mary, when reverting to the crown, they were sold that year by commissioners, authorised for the purpose, to Sir Edward Waldegrave and Dame Frances, his wife; shortly after which, the park appears to have been completely destroyed. The family of Waldegrave, anciently written Walgrave, is so named from a place called Walgrave, in Northamptonshire, at which one of the line resided in the reign of King John, whose descendants afterwards settled in Essex, and bore for their arms, *per pale, argent, and gules*. Warine de Walgrave is the first mentioned, whose son, John, was sheriff of London in the 7th year of the reign of John; and his direct descendant, Sir Edward Waldegrave, purchased this estate. He had been a principal officer of the household to the Princess Mary at the latter end of the reign of Edward VI., and incurred the displeasure of that monarch by his attachment to her interest, for which he was closely imprisoned in the Tower. But the king dying, he was by that princess amply recompensed for his sufferings, by continual marks of her royal favor and bounty; and obtained, as above mentioned, on very easy terms, the castle and manors of Hever, Cobham, and Brocas. However, on the death of Mary, in 1558, he was divested of all his offices, and committed prisoner to the Tower, where he died in the 3d of Queen Elizabeth, leaving two sons; Charles his heir, and Nicholas, ancestor to those of Boreley, in Essex; as well as several daughters.

Charles Waldegrave succeeded his father in his estates in this parish, whose son, Edward, received the honour of knighthood at Greenwich, in 1607; and although seventy years of age, at the breaking out of the civil wars, he nobly took arms in defence of the king, and having the command of a regiment of horse, behaved so bravely, that he was, in 1643, created a baronet.

He continued to act with great courage against the Parliamentary forces, during which struggle he lost two sons, and suffered in his estate to the amount of £50,000.

His great grandson, Sir Henry Waldegrave, in 1686, in the reign of James II., was created a peer, by the title of Baron Waldegrave, of Chewton, in Somersetshire, and had several offices of high trust conferred upon him; but on the revolution, he retired into France, and died at Paris in 1689. He married Henrietta, natural daughter of King James II., by Arabella Churchhill, sister of John duke of Marlborough, by whom he had James, created earl of Waldegrave, in the 3d of George II. He, in 1715, conveyed this castle and manor to Sir William Humfreys, bart. who was that year lord mayor of the city of London. He was of Barking, in Essex; created a baronet in 1714; and descended from Nathaniel Humfreys, citizen of London; when dying in 1735, he left an only son and heir, Sir Orlando Humfreys, bart. He died in 1737, leaving three sons and two daughters; of the former, two died young, when Robert, the second and only survivor, possessed the castle and manors of Hever, Cobham, and Brocas, and died before his father, possessed of the same, as appears by his epitaph, in 1736, æt. twenty-eight.

On the demise of Sir Orlando, his two daughters became his heirs, as well as coheirs to their brother, of whom Mary, the eldest, had three husbands; first, William Ball Waring, of Dunston, in Berkshire, who died in 1746, without issue; secondly, John Honywood, of Marks hall, who likewise died without issue; and lastly, Thomas Gore, esq. uncle to Charles Gore, esq. M.P., who had married, in 1741, Ellen, the other daughter of Sir Orlando Humfreys, above mentioned.

They, with their husbands, in 1745, joined in the sale of Hever castle, and the manors of Hever Cobham, and Hever Brocas, to Timothy Waldo, of Lyons, in France, one of the first persons who publicly opposed the doctrines of the church of Rome, of whom there is a full account in the Atlas Geograph. vol. ii., and in Moreland's History of the Evangelical Churches of Piedmont. One of his descendants, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, to escape the persecution of the Duke d'Alva, came over to England, where he and his descendants afterwards settled, who bore for their arms, *Argent, a bend azure, between*

Engraved by S. Lacey

three leopards' heads of the second; of whom, in the reign of King Charles II., there were three brothers. The eldest was knighted, and died without male issue, leaving two daughters his coheirs; of whom, Grace, the elder, married, first, Sir Nicholas Wolstenholme, bart., and secondly, William lord Hunsdon, but died without issue by either of these alliances in 1729. The second brother was of Harrow, in Middlesex; and Timothy, the third, figured as an eminent merchant in London. His grandson was Edward Waldo, of South Lambeth, and he died in 1783, leaving only one daughter, and Timothy Waldo, esq. of Clapham, the purchaser of this estate, as above mentioned, who was afterwards knighted, and died possessed of the property, with nearly 1300 acres of land surrounding, in 1786. He married, in 1736, Miss Catherine Wakefield, by whom he left an only daughter and heir, married to George Medley, esq. of Sussex, whom Lady Waldo survived, and became possessed of this manor.

The castle is entire and in good condition, being surrounded by a moat formed by the river Eden, over which there is a drawbridge, leading to the grand entrance, and in the gate, a portcullis. Within is a quadrangle, environed by the offices, and a great hall; at the upper end of which, above a step, is a large oak table, according to the custom of former times. The great staircase leads up to several chambers, as well as to the long gallery, the ceiling of which is much ornamented by foliages in stucco, and the rooms all wainscotted with small oaken panels unpainted. On one side of the gallery is a recess, with an ascent of two steps, wherein is a seat, with two returns, capable of holding ten or twelve persons, which, by tradition, was used as a throne when Henry VIII. visited this castle.

At the upper end of the gallery, on one side of a large window, appears in the floor a kind of trapdoor, which, when opened, discovers a narrow and dark, deep descent, said to reach as far as the moat, the same being still called the dungeon.

In a closet in one of the towers, the window of which is now stopped up, there is an adjoining chamber, wherein Queen Anne Boleyn is said to have been confined after her disgrace. The entrance from this closet to the chamber is now by a small door, which at that time presented a secret sliding panel, being yet called Anne Boleyn's panel.

In the windows of Hever castle are these arms, *Argent, three buckles gules within the garter; a shield of four coats, Howard, Brotherton, Warren, and Mowbray, argent, three buckles gules; a shield of eight coats,* viz. *Bulleyn, Hoo, St. Omer, Malmains, Wickingham, St. Leger, Wallop, and Ormond;* and one, *per pale, argent and gules, for Waldegrave.*

It is said that when Henry VIII., with his attendants, came to the top of the hill within sight of the castle, he was accustomed to wind his bugle horn, to give notice of his approach.

There was formerly a court-baron held for each of these manors, but latterly only one, both manors being esteemed but as one; the circuit over the neighbouring parishes being very extensive.

SEYLIARDS is an estate here extending into the parishes of Brasted and Eatonbridge, but the mansion is in this parish, and was the ancient seat of the Seyliard's, who afterwards branched out hence into Brasted, Eatonbridge, Chidingstone, and Boxley, in this county.

The first of this name recorded as having possessed this place was Ralph de Seyliard, who resided here in the reign of King Stephen.

Almeric de Evreux, earl of Gloucester, who lived in the reign of Henry III., demised lands to Martin Seyliard, and other possessions, called Hedinden, to Richard Seyliard, both of whom were sons of Ralph at Seyliard, the latter being ancestor to those seated here and at Delaware, in Brasted.

This place continued in his descendants till Sir Thomas Seyliard, of Delaware, passed it away to John Petley, esq. who alienated it to Sir Multon Lambarde, of Sevenoak, and he died possessed of the same in 1758, when it became the property of his grandson, Multon Lambarde, esq. of Sevenoak.

Hever is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar* of the archbishop, is, as such, within the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, which stands at the east end of the village, is a small but neat building, consisting of one aisle and two chancels, with a handsome spire at the west end, the fabric being dedicated to St. Peter.

Among other monuments and inscriptions within this church are the following: In the aisle is a gravestone, surmounted by the figure of a female, having an inscription, in black letter, engraved on brass, for Margaret, wife of William Cheyne, obt.

1419; *Arms. a fess wavy between three crescents.* In the chancel is a memorial for Sir Robert Humfreys, bart. of Jenkins, in Essex, obt. 1736. Upon the wall appears a brass plate, with the figure of a man kneeling at a desk, with an inscription, in black letter, for William Todde, schoolmaster to Charles Waldegrave, esq. obt. 1585. In the north chancel stands an altar tomb, with the figures at large, in brass, of Sir Thomas Bulleyn, knight of the garter, earl of Wiltshire and Ormond, obt. 1538. A small slab, with a brass plate, commemorates Bulleyn, son of Sir Thomas Bulleyn. In the belfry is a stone, with a brass plate, bearing a French inscription, in black letter, for John de Cobham, esq., obt. 1399, and Dame Johane de Leukenore, his wife, and Renaud, their son; while, near the above, is an ancient altar tomb for another of that name, whereon is a shield of arms, in brass, *Or, on a chevron, three eagles displayed, a star in the dexter point*, which belonged to this branch of the Cobham's, of Sterborough castle.

The church is a rectory, the advowson thereof belonged to the priory of Combwell, in Goudhurst, and devolved to the crown, with the rest of its possessions, at the time it was surrendered with all the religious houses. Soon after that period, this advowson was granted, with the site of the priory, to Thomas Colepeper; but he did not long possess the property, as it appears by the escheat rolls to have returned again to the king, and was granted by him, in his 34th year, to Sir John Gage, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service. He again exchanged it with Thomas Colepeper, to confirm which, an Act passed the following year, when his son and heir, Alexander Colepeper, had possession granted of sundry premises, among which was the advowson of Hever, held *in capite*, in the 3d and 4th of Philip and Mary. The year following, it was, among other premises, granted to Sir Edward Waldegrave, to hold by the like tenure, when Charles Waldegrave, esq. in the 12th of Queen Elizabeth, alienated this advowson to John Lennard, esq. of Chevening. Being entailed to the heirs male of the latter, by the last will of Sampson Lennard, esq., his eldest son, under the word *hereditament*, possessed it, and being an advowson in gross, it was never disentailed either by Henry, Richard, or Francis, lords Dacre, his descendants; it therefore passed to Thomas lord Dacre, son of the last-mentioned Francis, also lord Dacre, and afterwards

earl of Sussex in 1673, who ultimately became sole heir male of the descendants of John Lennard, esq. of Chevening.

The earl of Sussex died possessed of the property in 1715; and his two daughters, on the death of their father, were entitled to this advowson, who, a few years after, alienated the same. It then became the property of the Rev. Mr. George Lewis, and subsequently of the Rev. Mr. Hamlin, whose daughter having married the Rev. Mr. Nott, of Little Horsted, in Sussex, he became entitled to the same.

In the 15th of Edward I., the church of Hever was valued at fifteen marks.

By virtue of a *commission of inquiry* taken in 1650, Hever was returned as a parsonage, having a house and twelve acres of glebe land, which, with the tithes, were valued at £77 per annum. John Petter was then the incumbent, and received the profits; Francis lord Dacre having the presentation thereof.

In 1747, the value of the rectory was £183 per annum. The estimation in the king's books being £15 17 3½, and the yearly tenths £1 10 8¾. It was subsequently of the annual value of £200.

The priory of Combwell, in Goudhurst, was endowed by Robert de Thurnham, founder of that establishment in the reign of Henry II., with his tithe of Lincheshele, and other premises in this parish, for which the members of that institution received from the rector of the church the yearly sum of 43s. 4d.

In 1821, there were sixty-eight dwellings in the parish of Hever; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 313, females 293, making a total of 606 souls.

COWDEN lies southward from Hever, at the extremity of this county, adjoining Sussex, and is called CUDENA in the *Textus Roffensis*.

This parish is wholly within the Weald, and parted from the county of Sussex by a stream of the Medway, which proceeds from one of its four principal heads, rising at Gravely hill, in that county, whence directing its course eastward, along the southern bounds of this parish, it joins the principal stream at Penshurst.

The parish of Cowden is but little known, being situated in a

deep soil of clay, very wet and miry. The village, with the church on the east side, stands on a rise, though at a small distance only from the river, which here forms an elbow round the south side, about a mile from which is the Moat farm; and farther on, another, called the Wood; and at a little distance from the latter, is Cowden Furnace. A small quantity of land and two houses in this parish were, in Kilburne's time, reputed to lie within the hundred of Axstane, but more probably in that of Ruxley, as being perhaps a small part of the borough of Linkhill, parcel of that hundred. A fair is held here, on the feast of St. Mary Magdalen, for cattle and pedlary.

THE MANOR OF COWDEN, now called the manor of *Lewisham*, was anciently part of the possessions of Agnes de Montacute, who made a gift of all her demesne in Cuden, and in Hertfield, Sussex, together with her capital messuage and their appurtenances, to the prior and convent of Michelham, in Sussex. This was a priory of Black canons, founded by Gilbert de Aquila, at the beginning of the reign of Henry III., and dedicated to the Holy Trinity, whose possessions in this place were augmented by the further donation of Sir Walter de Letton, and Gunnora, his wife, who gave them all his land called Greggesland, in Cuden, confirming also the grants of those possessions laying within his fee, which that fraternity possessed through the gift of Agnes de Montacute, as above mentioned, and that they should be for ever freed from the suit of court, which the land was accustomed to make at his court at Tiches. All these grants were confirmed to the prior and convent by a charter of *inspeximus*, accorded by King Edward II. in the 14th year of his reign.

This priory was dissolved before the 29th of Henry VIII. and its possessions given up to the king, when that prince, the same year, granted them to Thomas lord Cromwell, who soon after exchanged the property with the crown. Thence it again passed by the title of the manor of Cowdeane for other lands, to William Fitzalan, earl of Arundel, in the 33d year of that reign, as the king, by Cromwell's advice, obtruded many of the estates, late belonging to the monasteries, upon the nobles and others, in exchange for their own lands, in order to bind them more firmly to oppose the re-establishment of such institutions, and the papal power.

He died two years after, possessed of this estate, and was succeeded therein by his only son and heir, Henry, on his father's decease, who again conveyed this estate to the crown, where it lay till the 3d and 4th of Philip and Mary, when that queen granted to Richard Sackville and Thomas Winton, among other premises, this manor of Cowden, with its appurtenances (lately belonging to the priory of Michelham, and parcel of the possessions of the earl of Arundel; and all lands called Warefield and Waremead, at the southern part of the water, called Kentwater, in Cowden, late in the tenure of William Wickenden,) to hold *in capite*, by knight's service.

The above personages appear to have joined in the sale of this estate to William Wickenden, whose grandson, in the reign of Charles I., died possessed of the same, leaving two sons, who divided this estate. One of the latter then alienated his moiety to Ashdown, from which family it was bequeathed by will to the Piggot's, from which name it passed to Mr. John Driver, and he sold it to Henry Streatfield, esq., who became possessed of the same.

The other moiety, which remained in the name of Wickenden, afterwards passed thence to the name of Bassett, the last of whom, Mr. Michael Bassett, left three daughters and coheirs; one of whom married Mr. John Burgess, and entitled him in her right to this portion. He died possessed of the property in 1794, and his widow again marrying James Harbroc, esq., he subsequently became the owner. There was anciently a court-baron held for this manor, which has been disused for a great number of years.

Cowden Leighton is a manor which had anciently owners bearing the sirname of Leighton, who were succeeded in the possession of the same by the Cobham's, of Sterborough.

Reginald lord Cobham, in the 14th of Edward III., procured a grant of *free warren*, among others, within his lordship of Cowden Leighton. In his descendants it continued down to Sir Thomas Cobham, who died possessed of it in the 11th of Edward IV., leaving an only daughter and heir, Anne, who conveyed it in marriage to Sir Edward Borough, of Gainsborough, in Lincolnshire, whose descendant, Borough lord Burgh, having expended vast sums in the service of Queen Elizabeth, was compelled to alienate this manor to Henry Streatfield, esq., and Richard his son. After the demise of the last-mentioned per-

sonages, it was by deed, and a recovery, in the 15th of King James, settled upon the youngest of the three sons of the above Richard. He died possessed of the property in 1628, without issue male, when it passed to his four daughters, who conveyed their respective interests therein by sale to Henry Streatfield, esq., of High Street house, in Chidingstone, eldest son of Richard Streatfield, esq.

His descendant, Henry Streatfield, esq., of High Street house, in Chidingstone, died possessed of this estate in 1762, when his son Henry succeeded to the possession of the same.

There is a manor in this parish called St. John's, otherwise the *manor of St. John of Jerusalem*, having most probably belonged to the knights of that order. This manor has for many years had the same owners as that of Stangrave, otherwise Eatonbridge, and as such was, with the ancient mansion of Crittenden, in the possession of Mrs. Sophia Streatfield, widow of Thomas of that name, of Oxsted, esq.

The Moat, otherwise Cosins, is a manor and ancient seat in Cowden, situated near the banks of the river, and was for many generations owned by a family of the name of Cosin, or Cosins, most probably from those of Norfolk, where this family was formerly of some eminence.

This estate continued so long in their possession that they affixed their name thereto, but in the 32d of Henry IV., William Cosin, who bore for his arms, *Azure, a lion rampant, gutte de sang, crowned, or*, alienated it to William Hextal, and William and Nicholas Gainsford. The former, in the 5th of Edward IV. conveyed all his interest therein to William Gainsford, esq., descended from a family seated at Crowhurst, in Surrey, previous to the Norman conquest, in which parish are the memorials of the interment of many of that ancient line.

Those of this name, owners of Cosins, were a younger branch of those at Crowhurst, and bore the same arms, *Argent, a chevron gules, between three greyhounds currant sable, collared, or.* The descendants of William Gainsford continued possessed of this estate till 1720, when Thomas died possessed of it, and his heirs soon after conveyed it by sale to Mr. John Woodgate, of Somerhill, in Tunbridge, whose son, the Rev. Mr. Francis Woodgate, rector of Mountfield, in Sussex, afterwards possessed the same.

WAYSTRODE, otherwise *Westwood*, but now generally called *the Wood*, is an estate situated about a mile from the church, and was formerly accounted a manor. It had anciently owners of the name of Waystrode, who continued its possessors till the beginning of the reign of Henry VI , when it was alienated to the May's, from which name it was again sold to the Still's, in whose descendants it continued to Mr. Richard Still, who resided here. His only daughter and heir carried it in marriage to Mr. Dyke, of Burwash, in Sussex, on whose death it descended to their only son and heir, Richard Still Dyke, esq., who espoused Mary, daughter of the Rev. George Jordan, of Burwash, and she surviving her husband, by his will possessed this estate.

The college of Lingfield, in Surrey, held an estate in this parish, called *Cold Alleyns*, which Henry VIII. granted to Thomas Cawarden, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service.

COWDEN is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and *deanery* of Malling. The church, which is a small building, has a handsome spire, and stands on the eastern side of the village, being dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen.

Among other memorials and monuments are those for the Knight's, Harby's, and Aynscombe's; and, on the south side is a memorial for Thomas Aynscombe, rector of the parish. This church is a rectory, the advowson of which was granted, among other premises, by Edward VI. to Ralph Vane, to hold *in capite* by knight's service, in which name it remained till the reign of James I., when it was soon after alienated to Sir Robert Sidney, lord Sydney of Penshurst, viscount Lisle, and afterwards earl of Leicester. In his descendants it continued down to Josceline Sidney, earl of Leicester, who died possessed of it in 1743, without legitimate issue, and by his will bequeathed it to his natural daughter, Anne Sidney. His two nieces, however, (daughters and coheirs of Colonel Sidney, his next eldest brother; Mary, married to Sir Brownlow Sherard, bart., and Elizabeth, to William Perry, esq.) claimed his estates in this county, as his coheirs by virtue of an entail, created by the marriage settlement of Robert earl of Leicester, in 1700, when, after much litigation, a compromise was entered into in 1746, which was confirmed by Act of Parliament, whereby this advowson, among

the other Kentish estates, was vested in Sir Brownlow Sherard, and William Perry, esq.

In the division of these estates, the advowson of this church was part of that moiety allotted to Sir Brownlow Sherard, who died without issue, after which his widow, in 1758, gave it by her will to Anne, widow of Sir William Yonge, bart., and knight of the bath for life, with remainder to her eldest son, Sir George Yonge, bart. of Escot, in Devonshire. They in 1770 joined in the sale of the patronage of this church, to Thomas Harvey, esq. of Tunbridge, who died in 1779, and devised it by will to his eldest son, Thomas Harvey, esq., who remained patron of the same. In the 15th of Edward I. this rectory was valued at fifteen marks.

By virtue of the *commission of inquiry*, taken by order of the State in 1650, issuing out of chancery, it was returned, that in Cowden there was a parsonage-house, and three acres of glebe land, which, with the tithes thereto belonging, were valued at £83 per annum, Mr. Thomas Aynscombe being then the incumbent, and the earl of Leicester patron of this living.

It was valued in the king's books at £9 18 11½, the yearly tenths being 19s. 10½d.

In 1821 there were eighty dwellings in the parish of Cowden; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 354, females 329, making a total of 683 souls.

Chidingstone lies southeastward from Cowden, and is called in the *Textus Roffensis* Cidingstane.

The parish of Chidingstone lies below the sand hills, and is consequently in the district called *the Weald*. It is about six miles in length from north to south, but not more than two, on an average, in breadth, the river Eden crossing the centre of the district, towards Penshurst, where it joins the river Medway. Northward of this stream the country is very much covered with woods, among which are situated Sharp's place, and Boar place, near the foot of the hill, called Boar's hill, but now usually denominated Bowsell gate, which names, among many others of a similar description hereabouts, certainly derived their origin from the wild boars, formerly very plentiful in these parts. About

a mile southward from the Eden, is the village is Chidingstone, which, owing to the rise whereon it is situated, was called High street, where there is a seat of the elder branch of the family of the Streatfield's, called High Street house, having been their place of residence from the time of James I., as it was subsequently of Henry Streatfield, esq. The face of the country throughout this parish is much the same as those last described, within the Weald; the soil is very moist, generally consisting of a deep strong clay; the lands abound in fine large oaks, which are interspersed over them, having also broad hedge-rows round the fields. There are many greens and small hamlets in different parts of this district, viz. Wickhurst green, Bowbeach, Hill heath, Carey's cross, Ranesley heath, and others. At the southern bounds of this parish, the branch of the river Medway, rising at Gravely hill, in Sussex, and directing its course eastward, divides the two counties.

This parish was formerly divided into *two manors*, which were distinguished from each other by the addition of the names of their respective owners. The one was called *the manor of Chidingstone Cobham*, and the other the *manor of Chidingstone Burghersh.*

The manor of Chidingstone Cobham was part of the possessions of a younger branch of the Cobham's, of Cobham, in this county. In the 14th of Edward III., Reginald de Cobham procured a charter of *free warren* in all the demesne lands within his lordship of Chidingstone. He was son of Reginald de Cobham, the only son of John de Cobham, of Cobham, in this county, by his second wife Joan, daughter and coheir of William de Hever. Pursuing a military life, according to the custom of those times, he was much employed by King Edward III., not only in his wars in France, but as a special ambassador to foreign states, on account of his great wisdom and fidelity.

He was more than once constituted admiral of the king's fleet from the Thames, westward, and in the 30th of that reign was with the king at the famous battle of Poictiers, where the English obtained such a signal victory. Having been summoned to parliament from the 16th to the 35th of Edward III., he died of the pestilence in the latter year, leaving Reginald, his son and heir, and Joan his wife, surviving. She died in the 43d of that

reign, having by her will ordered her body to be buried in the churchyard of St. Mary Overy, Southwark, and upon her decease, Reginald, her son, succeeded to this manor.

He was lord of Sterborough castle, in Surrey, whence this branch of the Cobham's was, from that period, called the Cobham's of Sterborough. They bore for their arms, *Gules on a chevron, or; three stars of six points, sable,* in the same manner as his father had borne them; but his grandfather, Reginald, son of John de Cobham, bore the *stars azure.*

This Reginald was summoned to Parliament, and twice married; first, to Elizabeth, widow of Fulk le Strange, of Blackmere, and secondly, to Alianore, daughter and coheir of John lord Maltravers, and widow of Sir John Fitzalan, otherwise Arundel. He died in the 4th of Henry IV. possessed of this manor, leaving Reginald, his son and heir, and Alianore, his wife, surviving. He was twice married, first, to Eleanor, daughter of Sir Thomas Colepeper, and secondly to Anne, daughter and coheir of Thomas lord Bardolph, and widow of Sir William Clifford. He died in the 24th of Henry VI., leaving this manor to his eldest surviving son, Sir Thomas Reginald Cobham.

Sir Thomas died possessed of this manor in the 11th of Edward IV., leaving by Anne, his wife, daughter of Humphrey Stafford duke of Buckingham, an only daughter and heir, Anne, who carried this estate in marriage to Sir Edward Borough, of Gainsborough, in Lincolnshire.

This family of the Borough's, otherwise Burgh, derived their descent from Hubert de Burgh, a younger son of the famous Hubert, chief justice of England, and earl of Kent, and bore for their arms, *Azure, three fleurs de lis, ermine.*

Of these, Sir Thomas Borough was a firm friend to the cause of Edward IV., for which he was obliged to quit the realm, but returning to the assistance of that prince, met him at Northampton, and accompanied him to Barnet field, where he proved victorious.

He married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir Henry Percy, of Athol, by whom he left Thomas, his son and heir, who in the reign of Richard III. was made knight of the Garter, and in the 3d of Henry VII. a baron, having had a summons to Parliament the same year. By his will, dated the 11th of Henry VII., he ordered his body to be interred in the church of All Saints, at

Gainsborough, and dying soon after, left by his wife, daughter of Thomas lord Roos, of Kendal, two sons; Sir Edward Borough, who married the daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Cobham, and Thomas; and two daughters, the eldest of whom espoused Lord Fitzhugh.

By her he left Thomas, his son and heir, who was summoned to Parliament among the peers of this realm, in the 21st of Henry VIII., by the title of Lord Burgh. He left by Anne, his wife, daughter of William Tirwhit, of Ketilby, in Lincolnshire, Thomas, his son and heir, who procured the disgavelment of his lands. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir David Owen, from whom he was divorced for her incontinency, and in the 35th of that reign obtained a special Act of Parliament for bastardizing the children who were the offspring of that alliance. By Alice, his second wife, who survived him, and afterwards married Edmund Rokewood, he had, as appears by his will, Henry, his son and heir, William, Thomas, and other children; and died in the 4th of Edward VI.

Henry, if he succeeded his father in title, did not long enjoy that honour, as in the 15th of Elizabeth, his brother William bore the title of Lord Burgh, and was one of the peers who sat in judgment on the duke of Norfolk.

William lord Burgh had by Catherine his wife, daughter of the earl of Lincoln, Sir John Borough, who died during his life, and Thomas, and three daughters, when he departed this life about the 27th of Queen Elizabeth, bearing for his arms, four coats, quarterly first and fourth, *Borough;* secondly, *Cobham* of *Sterborough;* third, quarterly first and fourth, *Percy;* and fourth, *Athell.*

Thomas lord Burgh resided, as his ancestors had done, at Sterborough castle, having been a man of no small eminence. In 1587 he was appointed governor of the Brill, and afterwards sent ambassador to Scotland, made knight of the Garter, and in 1597 lord deputy of Ireland; but having, in the 38th of Elizabeth, expended large sums in the service of that queen, he was compelled to alienate this manor of Chidingstone Cobham, with that of Tyhurst, in this parish, to Richard Stroatfield, esq. of Chidingstone, who was of High Street house in this parish. He married Anne, daughter and coheir of a Fremling, by whom he had three sons, Henry, Silvester, and Thomas, and one daughter Margaret.

On the partition of their father's estates, Henry had Tyhurst; Thomas, the manor of Chidingstone Cobham, whose daughters and coheirs possessed the same after his decease, and they and their descendants, at different periods, alienated their shares in this manor to Henry Streatfield, esq., of High Street house, eldest son of Richard, and grandson of Henry, before mentioned. Richard Streatfield, esq., of High Street house, the eldest son of Henry, left four sons; of whom Henry, the eldest, purchased the manor of Chidingstone Cobham, of the heirs of Henry Streatfield, as above mentioned; Thomas was of Sevenoak, and ancestor of Thomas of Sevenoak; William was of Hever, and ancestor of those at that place, and of Penshurst in this county, as well as of Oxsted, and Stoke Newington in Middlesex, near London; and John, the fourth son, was ancestor of William Streatfield, of Penshurst.

Henry Streatfield, the purchaser of this manor, was of High Street house, and died possessed both of Tyhurst and Chidingstone Cobham manors, in 1709. He left a son and heir, Henry, who succeeded his father in these manors and estates, and having married a daughter of Mr. Baird, left by her a son Henry, who in 1752 married Miss Anne Sidney.

He died in 1762, leaving his wife surviving, and two sons, Henry and Richard, and two daughters; on his death, Henry Streatfield, esq. possessed the manors both of Tyhurst and Chidingstone Cobham, together with High Street house, the family mansion in this parish.

There are courts-baron regularly held for each of these manors.

The Manor of Chidingstone Burghersh, or *Burgherst*, called formerly Burwash court, was part of the possessions of the eminent family of Burghersh. In the 16th of Edward I. Robert de Burgherst was made constable of Dover castle, and warden of the Cinque Ports; and in the 33d of the same reign was summoned to Parliament among the barons of the realm, and died two years after, being then possessed of this manor, leaving Stephen, his son and heir, who, in the 1st of Edward II. obtained a charter of *free warren* for all his demesne lands within this manor.

To the above succeeded Bartholomew, who married Elizabeth, one of the daughters and heirs of Theobald de Verdon, a great baron in Staffordshire. He took part with the Spencer's and

others, the king's favorites, and was made prisoner, after their defeat at Boroughbridge, but on the arrival of Queen Isabel and her son, Prince Edward, in the 20th year of that reign, he was not only released from confinement in the tower, but made constable of Dover castle, and warden of the Cinque Ports, in which office he continued till the accession of Edward III. In the 1st and 2d years of that reign, he received a new commission for those offices, and was much employed by that prince, as well in civil as military trusts, of great importance, being in the 5th of that reign constituted seneschal of Ponthieu. In the 9th year of the same prince, he was appointed warden of all the king's forests south of Trent; in the 11th year, admiral of the seas westward; and in the following year, obtained a confirmation of his charter for *free warren* in all his demesne lands in this parish. In the 16th year of the same reign, he obtained another charter for *free warren* for his lands here; the ensuing year, was again made constable of Dover castle; and during the period above mentioned, was, with others of the nobility, employed in several embassies in foreign parts. In the 20th year of the above monarch, he was present at the famous victory gained over the French, at Cressy; and three years after, appointed lord chamberlain of the king's household; and, in his 29th year, constable of the tower of London; when, having been summoned to Parliament, from the 1st of Edward III. till the 28th inclusive, he died soon afterwards possessed of this manor, leaving two sons, Bartholomew and Henry, and one daughter Joan.

Bartholomew, the eldest son, married Cicele, daughter and heir of Richard de Weyland, and in the 24th of the above reign, upon the institution of the order of the Garter, the king had so high an esteem of his valour and military skill, that he was selected as one of the knights companions of that celebrated institution. From the above period he was continually employed in the wars in France, where he behaved with great gallantry, more especially at the battle of Poictiers. His arms were, *Gules, a lion rampant, double queue, or,* which are still apparent on the roof of the cloisters of Canterbury cathedral.

About the 43d of Edward III. the above-mentioned Bartholomew conveyed the manor, with other lands in this county and Warwickshire, to Sir Walter de Pavely, knight of the Garter, in

whose family it remained till the latter end of the reign of Richard II., when it was conveyed to the Vaux's, of the county of Northampton. In that name it continued till the reign of Henry VI., when it was alienated to John Alphegh, or Alphew, of Bore place, in this parish, who bore for his arms, *Argent, a fess between three boars' heads, couped, sable.* He died in 1489, leaving by Isabel, his wife, two daughters and coheirs; Elizabeth, twice married, and Margaret, who espoused Sir Robert Read, when he, in her right, possessed this manor. The Read's were descended from an ancient family in the county of Northumberland, and Sir Robert Read being bred to the law, was in 1507 made chief justice of the Common Pleas, and so highly esteemed by Henry VII. as to be constituted one of his executors. He bore for his arms, *Gules, on a fess wavy, three cock pheasants, sable;* which coat, empaling Alphew, is still remaining in a window in Sergeant's inn, London.

By Margaret, his wife, Sir Robert had an only son, Edmund, who was one of the justices of the King's Bench, but, dying before him, without issue, in 1501, was buried in this church; he had also four daughters, Bridget, married to Sir Thomas Willoughby; Jane, to John Caryll, esq., sergeant at law; Mary, to Sir William Barrington; and Dorothy, to Sir Edward Wotton. Sir Robert died about the 10th year of Henry VIII. without issue male surviving, so that his four daughters became his coheirs, and on a partition of their inheritance, this manor, with other estates in the parish, were allotted to the share of Sir Thomas Willoughby, and Bridget, his wife.

Sir Thomas Willoughby was the fifth and youngest son of Sir Christopher Willoughby, and youngest brother of William lord Willoughby, ancestor of the Baroness Willoughby of Eresby, and of Christopher, ancestor of the Lords Willoughby of Parham, now extinct. The origin of the family in this kingdom was Sir John de Willoughby, a Norman knight, who had the lordship of Willoughby, in Lincolnshire, by gift of the Conqueror.

Sir Thomas Willoughby being bred to the law, was knighted in the 29th of Henry VIII., and made chief justice of the Common Pleas; and by his wife, Bridget, as above mentioned, became entitled to this manor of Chidingstone Burghersh, with his seat, called Bore place, and other estates in this parish. In

the 31st year of that reign, he, among others, by an Act then passed, procured the disgavelment of his lands.

He died in the 37th of Henry VIII., and was interred in this church, with Bridget, his wife. His arms were, *Gules on a bend, wavy, argent, three birds sable, empaling argent, a fess between three boars' heads, couped sable.* This shield is still remaining in one of the windows of Sergeant's inn, in Fleet street.

His grandson, Sir Thomas Willoughby, was sheriff of this county in the 15th and 32d of Queen Elizabeth, and bore for his arms, *Or, fretty azure.* He married Catherine, daughter of Sir Percival Hart, of Lullingstone, by whom he left several sons and daughters; of the former, Percival, the eldest, succeeded to these estates, and was, on the accession of King James I., knighted by that prince. He married Bridget, eldest daughter and coheir of Sir Francis Willoughby, of Wollaton hall, in Nottinghamshire, by which union he not only possessed that mansion, but a large estate in the county, for which he was elected to serve in the first Parliament under James I., being ancestor of Henry Willoughby, lord Middleton. This nobleman feeling desirous of increasing his interest in Nottinghamshire, alienated the manor of Chidingstone Burghersh to Messrs. John and Robert Seyliard, of Delaware; from whom it descended to John Seyliard, esq. who was created a baronet in 1661; and from him, it passed to Sir Thomas, who, about the year 1700, conveyed it, with Delaware, to Henry Streatfield, esq. He dying, bequeathed this estate to his youngest son, Thomas Streatfield, esq. of Sevenoak, whence passing to his nephew, in 1762, the inheritance became at length vested in Henry Streatfield, esq. of High Street house.

Bore place is a seat here, which, with the manor of Milbroke, was anciently, as far back as the reign of Henry III. the estate of a family which hence assumed its sirname, and was called Bore, taking a *boar's head* for their arms. In the above name this seat and manor continued till John Bore, in the reign of Henry VI., conveyed them by sale to John Alphew, who rebuilt Bore place, and died possessed of both in 1489, leaving two daughters and coheirs, one of whom, Margaret, became the wife of Sir Robert Read. He resided at Bore place, which mansion he much enlarged, and dying without issue male, his four daughters became his coheirs, when the eldest, having

married Sir Thomas Willoughby, on a partition of his estates, she had this seat of Milbroke, and his other possessions in the parish, for her share.

Sir Thomas Willoughby likewise resided at Bore place, and added much to its improvement. His grandson, Sir Percival, in the beginning of the reign of James I., alienated Bore place and Milbroke to Mr. Bernard Hyde, of London, one of the commissioners of the customs to Charles I. His descendant, Bernard Hyde, esq. sold them to Henry Streatfield, esq. of High Street house, in this parish; on whose death, in 1762, the inheritance of Bore place and Milbroke became vested in his eldest son, Henry Streatfield, esq. of High Street house.

There is a court-baron held for the manor of Milbroke.

Bowzell, anciently called *Boresell*, is a manor, the greatest part whereof lies in the adjoining parish of Chevening, under which district it ought more properly to have been placed. It was anciently part of the possessions of that branch of the family of the Cobham's situated at Sterborough castle, in Surrey.

Reginald de Cobham died possessed of this manor in the 35th of Edward III., as did Joan, his wife, in the 43d year of the same reign; from whom it descended down to Sir Thomas Cobham, who died possessed of the property in the 11th of Edward IV. His daughter and heir conveyed it in marriage to Sir Edward Borough, of Gainsborough, in Lincolnshire, and she died under Henry VIII. surviving her husband, possessed of this manor. Their descendant, Sir Thomas Borough, lord Burgh, knight of the Garter, died possessed of the property in the 40th of Elizabeth, leaving four daughters; Elizabeth, married to George Brooke, esq., brother of Lord Cobham; Frances, to Francis Coppinger, esq., whose direct descendant, Fysh Coppinger, esq. of West Drayton, in 1790, had a licence, under the king's sign manual, to assume the name of Burgh; Anne, to Sir Drew Drury; and Catherine, to Thomas Knyvett, esq.: and they, some years afterwards, to defray sundry debts, joined in the sale of this estate to the Thomas's, of Whitley, in Sevenoak; thence it passed to the Waterson's; from which line, by a female descendant, the estate was conveyed in marriage to the Bonnel's, whose descendant, James Bonnel, esq. of London, about 1784, alienated it to the Rev. Richard Rycroft, D.D. rector of Penshurst, in this county, who was, in

1783, created a baronet; and his son, Sir Nelson Rycroft, afterwards possessed the same.

Ranesley, formerly spelt *Rendesley*, is a manor in this parish, lying near the boundaries of Penshurst, the owners of which were, in ancient deeds, written both Rendesley and Rennesley; but before the end of the reign of Henry VI. this family became extinct, and the possession was alienated to the Alphew's, of this parish, whose descendant, John, of Bore place, dying in 1489, without issue male, one of his daughters and coheirs, Margaret, carried it in marriage to Sir Robert Read. By a female of the latter union, it was then conveyed in marriage to Sir Thomas Willoughby, whose descendant, Robert, alienated it to one Bond, when Mrs. Anne Bond possessed it in the 1st of Edward VI. Her heirs then conveyed it to Nathaniel Studley, esq. of Emborne Minster, in Yorkshire, whose only son and heir succeeded his father in this manor; and during the civil wars of Charles I. alienated it to Mr. Christopher Knight, of Cowdham; on whose death it passed into the possession of his son, Mr. Michael Knight, of Westerham. From the latter family, Ranesley manor went by sale to Robert earl of Leicester; after which it continued in his descendants, in like manner as the rest of his estates in this parish, and was carried by two female coheirs in marriage to Sir Brownlow Sherard, and William Perry, esq., who possessed it in undivided moities. The former died in 1748, without issue, and his widow held one moiety till her death, in 1758, when she by will gave it to Anne, widow of Sir William Yonge, bart., with remainder to her son, Sir George Yonge, bart. of Escot, in Devonshire. William Perry, esq. died possessed of the other moiety in 1757, leaving his wife surviving, who, in 1770, purchased of Lady Yonge and her son, Sir George, their moiety, and thus became owner of the whole; which she gave by will, at her death in 1783, to her eldest grandson, Sir John Shelley Sidney, esq. the present possessor.

Chidingstone is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar* of the archbishop of Canterbury, as such, is within the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a large handsome building, consisting of three aisles and three chancels, with a handsome tower steeple at the west end.

Among the monuments and records in this church is an iron

plate in the middle aisle, with an inscription for Richard Streatfield, obt. 1601; another for Richard Streatfield, of Cransted, obt. 1584; and a stone for Thomas Birchensty, of Sussex. In the south aisle is a memorial for Anne, wife of John Basset, of Eatonbridge; on a pillar, in the body of the church, is a memento for Henry Streatfield, of High Street house, and Sarah, his wife; with many others, too numerous for insertion. In the 15th of King Edward I., this church was valued at thirty marks.

By virtue of the *commission of inquiry* into the value of church livings, taken in 1650, it was returned, that in Chidingstone there was a parsonage, with a house and land, worth £110 per annum; Master Thomas Seyliard being then the incumbent, and the archbishop the donor thereof.

It is a rectory, and was valued in the king's books at £28 9 4½, the yearly tenths being £2 16 11½.

In 1821 there were 164 dwellings in the parish of Chidingstone; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 589, females 507, making a total of 1096 souls.

The next parish eastward from Chidingstone is PENSHURST, called, in the *Textus Roffensis*, PENNESHERST. It derives its name from the old British word, *Pen*, the height or top of any thing, and *hyrst*, a wood. It is called in some ancient records *Pencestre and Penchester*, from some fortified camp or fortress anciently situated here.

There is a district in this parish called Hallborough, being within the lowy of Tunbridge, the manorial rights of which belong to Thomas Streatfield, esq.; and there is another part, comprehending the estate of Chafford, which is within the jurisdiction of the duchy court of Lancaster.

THIS PARISH lies in the WEALD, about four miles southward from the foot of the sand hills, and the same distance from the town of Tunbridge and the high London road from Sevenoak. The face of the country is much the same as in those parishes last described, as well as the soil, being well adapted to the growth of large timber-trees, for which this parish is remarkable, a tree having been cut down in Penshurst park, some years back,

called, from its spreading branches, Broad Oak, which had twenty-one tons, or 140 feet, of timber contained therein. The parish is watered by the river Eden, which runs through the centre, and taking a circular course, after being separated into two small streams, joins the river Medway, which flows by the southern part of the park, towards Tunbridge. At a small distance northward, stands the noble mansion of Penshurst place, at the south-west corner of the park, which was formerly of much larger extent, the farther part, called North or Lyghe and South parks, having been alienated from the same; on the grounds of the latter of which, the late Mr. Allnutt built his seat of that name, whence the ground rises northward towards the parish of Lyghe. Close to the north-west corner of Penshurst park, is the seat of Redleaf; and at the south-west part, very near the place, is the village of Penshurst, with the church and parsonage. At a small distance on the other side of the river, southward, is Ford place, where the country becomes lower, and being watered by several streams, the roads are wet and miry, and the grounds much covered by coppice wood. About a mile southward from the river, is New House, and the boroughs of Frending and Kingsborough; half a mile southward from which, is the river Medway; on the farther side, the estate of Chafford; and a little beyond the latter, that stream joins the parish of Ashurst, at Stone cross. In a deep hole, in the Medway, near the lower end of Penshurst park, called Tapner's hole, rises a spring, which produces a strong and visible ebullition on the surface of the river; and above West place, a farm-house near the south-east corner of the park, is a fine spring, called Kidder's well, which having been chemically analized, is found a stronger chalybeate than the waters which rise at Tunbridge wells; there is a stone basin wherein the spring rises, which runs to waste, having been placed here by one of the earls of Leicester. This parish, as well as those adjoining, abounds in iron ore, and most of the springs therein are more or less impregnated by the chalybeate. In the lofty bushes near the keeper's lodge, in Penshurst park, is a noted *heronry*, which, since the destruction of that in Lord Dacres' park, at Aveley, in Essex, is, we believe, the only one in this part of England. A fair is held here, on the 1st of July, annually, for pedlary.

THE LARGEST PART of this parish is within the jurisdiction

of the honour of Otford, a subordinate limb to which is the MANOR OF PENSHURST HALIMOTE, otherwise OTFORD WEALD; extending likewise over parts of the adjoining parishes of Chidingstone, Hever, and Cowden. As a limb of that honour, it was formerly part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, and held, for a long term, on lease of the archbishops, by the successive owners of Penshurst manor, till the death of the duke of Buckingham, in the 13th of Henry VIII., in the 29th of which reign, Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, exchanged Otford with the crown, and this, as *an appendage*, passed with the same, and so continued till the death of Charles I., A.D. 1648. They were then seized, and sold to supply the necessities of the state; after which, Colonel Robert Gibbon held the property till the Restoration, when it reverted to the crown, where it continued, as well as the honour of Otford, his grace the duke of Dorset being high steward of the whole. The feefarm rents, however, with those of other manors belonging to the above-mentioned honour, were alienated from the crown in the reign of Charles II., and afterwards became the property of Sir James Dashwood, bart., in whose family they continued.

Soon after the reign of William the Conqueror, Penshurst was the residence of a family which thence took its name, and was called the *manor of Peneshurste*. It also appears from a deed in the REGISTRUM ROFFENSE, that Sir John Belemeyns, canon of St. Paul's, London, was in possession of this manor as uncle and trustee, in the latter part of the reign of Henry III., to Stephen de Peneshurste, or Penchester, who possessed it under Edward III. He had been knighted, and made constable of Dover castle, and warden of the Cinque Ports, by Henry III., in which posts he continued after the accession of Edward I. when he died without issue male, and was buried in this church, under an altar tomb, on which lays his figure in armour, reclining on a cushion. He left Margery, his second wife, surviving, who held this manor at her death, and two daughters coheirs; Joan, married to Henry de Cobham, of Rundale, second son of John de Cobham, of Cobham, in this county; and Alice, to John de Columbers, whose arms were, *Sable, a bend or, a label of points, argent*, which coat still remains in the cloisters of Canterbury cathedral. Alice had this manor, with that of Lyghe adjoining,

assigned to her; soon after which they were conveyed to Sir John de Pulteney, of Misterton, in Leicestershire, in the 15th of Edward II., who had license to embattle his mansion-houses of Penshurst, Chenle in Cambridgeshire, and in London. In the 11th of Edward III., Thomas, son of Sir John de Columbers, of Somersetshire, released to him all his right to this manor, and the advowson of the chapel of Penshurst; and the year following, Stephen de Columbers, brother of Sir Philip, also released to him all his right in that manor, and Yenesfield, and the same year he obtained a grant of *free warren* within his demesne lands. He was in great favor with the above monarch, during whose reign he was four times lord mayor of London, and is noticed by our historians for his piety, wisdom, large possessions, and magnificent hospitality.

During his life he performed several acts of public charity, and among others, founded a college in the church of St. Laurence, in London, since named from him Poulteney. He built the church of Little All-hallows, in Thames street, and the Carmelite church and gate to their monastery in Coventry, as well as a chapel and chantry in St. Paul's cathedral, London; in addition to which, by his will, he left many charitable legacies, and directed that he should be buried in the church of St. Laurence above mentioned. He bore for his arms, *Argent, a fess dancette, gules in chief, three leopards' heads, sable.*

He died in the 23d year of the above reign, possessed of this manor, with the advowson of the chapel, Lyghe, South park, and Orbiston woods; with lands in Lyghe, Tappenash, and others in this county, leaving Margaret, his wife, surviving. She married, secondly, Sir Nicholas Lovaine, who in her right possessed a life estate in these manors, in which they appear jointly to have had the fee, as Sir William Pulteney, her son, during his life, vested his interest in these manors and estates, in trustees, and died without issue in the 40th year of the same reign, when Robert de Pulteney was found to be his kinsman and next heir, being ancestor to the late earl of Bath. The trustees afterwards, in the 48th year of the same reign, conveyed these estates, together with all the other property of which Sir John Pulteney died possessed, to Sir Nicholas Lovaine, and Margaret his wife, and their heirs for ever. Sir Nicholas was a descendant of the noble family of the Lovaine's, a younger branch of the duke of Lor-

raine. Godfrey, so called from the place of his birth, possessed lands also in England, in right of his mother, granddaughter of King Stephen, of whose descendants this Nicholas was a younger branch. He bore for his arms, *Gules, a fess argent, between fourteen billets, or*, which shield is quartered by Bourchier earl of Bath, and Devereux earl of Essex. He died possessed of this manor, leaving one son Nicholas, who married Margaret, daughter of John de Vere, earl of Oxford, who departed this life without issue male, when his daughter Margaret became her brother's heir.

Margaret, widow of Nicholas, the son, possessed this manor for her life, and afterwards married Sir John Devereux, who in her right held the same. He was descended from a family which took its sirname from Evreux, a town of note in Normandy, there having been several generations of them in England before they were peers of the realm. The first of this name summoned to Parliament, was this Sir John Devereux, who, being bred a soldier, was much employed in the wars of Edward III. and Richard II., and had many important trusts conferred upon him. In the 11th year of the latter reign he was a knight banneret, constable of Dover castle, and warden of the Cinque Ports. In the 16th of the same prince he had license to embattle his mansion at Penshurst, and the year following he died, leaving Margaret, his wife, surviving, who had this manor assigned to her in dower. She died possessed of the estate, with Yensfield, and other lands, about the 10th of Henry IV., and was succeeded in the same by Margaret, sister and heir of her first husband, Nicholas Lovaine; she was twice married, first to Richard Chamberlayn, esq. of Sherburn, in Oxfordshire, and secondly to Sir Philip St. Clere, of Aldham St. Clere, in Ightam. Both these personages, in right of their wife, appear to have possessed this manor, which descended to John St. Clere, son of the latter, who conveyed it by sale to John duke of Bedford, third son of King Henry IV., by Mary his wife, daughter and coheir of Humphrey de Bohem, earl of Hereford, Essex, and Northampton.

The duke of Bedford was the great support and glory of this kingdom, in the beginning of the reign of his infant nephew, Henry VI. His courage was matchless, and followed by such rapid successes in his wars in France, where he was regent, and

commanded the English army in person, that he struck the greatest terror into his enemies. The victories he acquired so humbled the French that he caused Henry VI. to be crowned at Paris, in which city he died, greatly lamented, in the 14th of that reign, and was buried in the cathedral of Rouen. He was twice married, but had no issue, and died possessed of the manors of Penshurst, Havenden court, and Yensfield, in which he was succeeded by his next brother, Humphrey duke of Gloucester, fourth son of Henry IV., and in the 1st of Henry VI. was by Parliament made protector of England during the minority of the king, and constituted chamberlain of England, and at the coronation of that prince was appointed high steward of this realm.

This Duke Humphrey was, for his virtuous endowments, sirnamed the *Good*, and, for his justice, esteemed the father of his country; notwithstanding which, after he had, under Henry VI., his nephew, governed this kingdom twenty-five years, he was, by the machinations of Margaret of Anjou, his nephew's queen, who envied his power, arrested, at the Parliament held at St. Edmondsbury, by John lord Beaumont, then high constable, and others; and the night following (being the last day in February,) was found dead in his bed, it being the general opinion that his dissolution was the effect of strangulation, though his body was shown to the Lords and Commons, with an account of his having died of an apoplexy, or imposthume. He was buried in the abbey of St. Alban's, near the shrine of that protomartyr, and a stately monument erected to his memory.

The duke was twice married, first, to Jacqueline, daughter and heir of William duke of Bavaria, to whom belonged the earldoms of Holland, Zealand and Hainault, and many other rich seignories in the Netherlands, after which he assumed these titles, Humphrey, by the grace of God, son, brother, and uncle to kings; duke of Gloucester, earl of Hainault, Holland, Zealand, and Pembroke; lord of Friesland, great chamberlain of England, and protector and defender of the kingdom and church of England.

But Jacqueline having been married to John duke of Brabant, and a suit of divorce being still pending between them, the pope pronounced her marriage with the duke of Brabant lawful, and the duke of Gloucester was compelled to resign all the rights he had possessed in that princess.

He then married Eleanor Cobham, daughter of Reginald Cobham, of Sterborough, formerly his mistress, who a few years before the death of the duke, was accused of witchcraft, and conspiring the death of the king, for which she was condemned to solemn penance in London for three days, and afterwards committed to perpetual imprisonment in the Isle of Man. Duke Humphrey established the schools of divinity at Oxford, and laid the foundation of that famous library, since increased by Sir Thomas Bodley, who enriched the collection by a choice assemblage of MSS. purchased in France and Italy. He bore for his arms, quarterly, *France and England, a bordure argent.*

He died possessed of the manors of Penshurst, Havenden court, and Yensfield, in this county, and dying without issue, Henry VI. became his next heir.

The manor of Penshurst having devolved to the crown, was immediately granted to Humphrey Stafford, who, in consideration of his near alliance in blood to Henry VI., was, in the 23d of that reign, created duke of Buckingham. He was slain at the battle of Northampton, fighting valiantly on the king's side.

He died possessed of the manor of Penshurst, which descended to his great grandson, Edward duke of Buckingham, who was beheaded under Henry VIII., after which an Act passed for the restitution in blood of his son Henry, but not to his honours or lands, so that this manor, among his other estates, became forfeited to the crown, where they appear to have continued for some time. The above monarch, in his 36th year, purchased different parcels of land to enlarge his park, among which was Well place, 170 acres of land belonging thereto, and the estates of John and William Fry, all of which he enclosed within the pale of the same, though the purchase of the latter was not completed till the 1st of Edward VI. who appears to have granted the park of Penshurst, to John earl of Warwick, which latter nobleman again exchanged it with the king for other premises, who soon after granted this manor to Sir Ralph Vane, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service.

He died without issue, and his estates devolved to the crown, where they continued but a short time, as the king, by his letters patent, that year, granted to Sir William Sidney and his heirs, his manor and park of Penshurst, with all its appurtenances, comprising 300 acres of land, to hold *in capite*, by knight's ser-

vice. The family of Sidney, which was anciently seated at Cranleigh, in Surrey, and Kingesham, in Sussex, derived its origin from SirWilliam Sidney, chamberlain to Henry II., having landed in England with that prince from Anjou. A direct descendant from this personage was SirWilliam above mentioned, who, in the reign of Henry VIII., had acquired great reputation in his profession as a soldier, and in the 5th year of that reign commanded the right wing of the army, under the earl of Surrey, at the battle of Flodden field, where he was installed a knight banneret. He was chamberlain and steward to Prince Edward, before his accession to the throne, and one of the gentlemen of the privy chamber to that prince. He died in the 7th of Edward VI., and was buried at Penshurst, leaving by Anne, his wife, daughter of Hugh Pagenham, Sir Henry Sidney, his son and heir, and four daughters. He succeeded to the manors of Penshurst and Yensfield the same year, and was much esteemed by Edward VI., with whom he had been bred from his infancy, and brought up in the court as his companion. Upon the accession of that prince, Sir Henry Sidney was knighted, and made gentleman of his privy chamber, and in the 3d of that reign sent ambassador to France, though not having attained his twenty-first year. He was afterwards elected a knight of the Garter, constituted a member of the privy council, was four times lord justice of Ireland, and thrice lord deputy of that kingdom, which was much indebted to him for the prudent regulations he established, and the public works he effected during his government in that country. Having, in his passage by water from Ludlow, in Wales, of which principality he was then president, taken cold, he died after a few days' illness, in the 28th of Queen Elizabeth, at the palace of the bishop of Worcester, whence his body was, by order of the queen, conveyed with great solemnity to Penshurst, where it was interred, but his heart was carried back to Ludlow, and there inhumed.

By the lady Mary, eldest daughter of John Dudley, duke of Northumberland, he had three sons, Sir Philip, Sir Robert, and Sir Thomas Sidney, and one surviving daughter, Mary, married to Henry earl of Pembroke, whose name is highly celebrated by her brother, Sir Philip, in his Arcadia.

Sir Philip Sidney, eldest son of Sir Henry, was born, as it is supposed, at Penshurst, Nov. 24, 1554, and had he not been cut

off in the prime of life, would most likely have proved one of the greatest ornaments England ever produced, as well for his learning as his other extraordinary qualifications. Being made governor of Flushing, in Zealand, he went over to Flanders with the forces sent to assist the States, and encountering the Spaniards near Zutphen, in Guilderland, September 22, of the same year in which his father died, was there mortally wounded in the thigh, and expired the 10th of October following, at Arnheim, æt. thirty-four. Camden, in his eulogy on this virtuous personage, says: "he was the glory of his family, the hopes of mankind, the most lively pattern of virtue, and the darling of the learned world." Not many months afterwards his corpse was conveyed to England, and interred with great honour above the choir in St. Paul's church, London, with no small lamentation, not only on the part of the queen and court, but the nation in general. He left by Frances, his wife, daughter and heir of Sir Francis Walsingham, secretary of state, (who subsequently married Robert earl of Essex, afterwards the earl of Clanrickard,) an only daughter, named Elizabeth, who married Roger earl of Rutland.

Sir Robert Sidney, his next brother and heir, succeeded to his estates, and, in the 31st of Elizabeth, was likewise appointed governor of Flushing, and ambassador to France. On the accession of King James, he was, by letters patent, in the 1st of that reign, created a baron, by the title of Lord Sidney, of Penshurst, in this county; in the 3d year of the same reign, created Viscount Lisle; and in the 15th year, installed knight of the Garter. In further consideration of his services, he was, twelve months after, created earl of Leicester, the ceremony being performed in the hall of the bishop's palace, at Salisbury; he was also of the council to the lord president of Wales, and of the privy council to King James; and dying at Penshurst in 1626, under Charles I., was buried in this church.

Robert, earl of Leicester, was twice married; first, to Barbara, daughter and heir of John Gamage, esq. of Coytie, in Glamorganshire, by whom he had three sons, (Sir William, born at Flushing, and naturalized by Act of Parliament, who died unmarried; Henry, who died in his infancy; and Sir Robert, made knight of the Bath at the creation of Henry prince of Wales,) and eight daughters; of whom Barbara, married to Thomas

Smith, esq. of Westenhanger, afterwards Viscount Strangford, and secondly to Sir Thomas Colepeper.

The earl married, secondly, Sarah, daughter of William Blunt, esq., and widow of Sir Thomas Smith, of Sutton at Hone.

Sir Robert Sidney, viscount Lisle, was his only surviving son, and, in the 2d of King Charles I., succeeded him as earl of Leicester. He was several times sent ambassador to the king of Denmark, the States of Germany, and the court of France; and, on the removal of the earl of Strafford, was nominated lord lieutenant of Ireland, though he never went thither.

He died at Penshurst in 1677, having married Dorothy, eldest daughter of Henry Percy, earl of Northumberland, during whose residence here, in 1649, the earl of Northumberland, her brother, being desirous of surrendering his trust of the duke of Gloucester and the princess Elizabeth, procured for his sister the countess of Leicester, this charge; upon which they were removed to Penshurst place on the 11th of June, where they remained about twelve months. The earl of Leicester had by his countess, six sons, and eight daughters; the eldest of whom, Lady Dorothy, is celebrated by Waller, under the name of Sacharissa, who married Lord Sunderland, and secondly Robert Smith, esq. of Bidborough; Lucy espoused Sir Robert Pelham, bart., of Sussex; Anne was united to Joseph Cart, A.M.; and Isabella wedded Viscount Strangford. Of the sons who survived, Philip was his successor; Algernon, the most zealous republican, who set up Marcus Brutus for his pattern, and was beheaded on Tower hill in 1683, charged with having been concerned in the Rye House plot; and Robert, the third son, who died at Penshurst in 1674. Henry, the youngest surviving son, was, in 1689, created Baron Milton and Viscount Sidney of the Isle of Shepey, and in 1694 advanced to the title of earl of Romney in this county, when he died unmarried in 1704.

The eldest son Philip succeeded to the title and estates, and lived in great honour and esteem, to a good old age, dying at London in 1698. He married Catherine, daughter of the earl of Salisbury, by whom he had Robert his successor, and two daughters.

Robert, his son and heir, was summoned by writ to the house of Peers, during the life of his father in 1689, and succeeded him as earl of Leicester in 1698. He died in 1702, and was buried

at Penshurst, having had by his wife, daughter of the earl of Bridgewater, four sons and two daughters; of the former, Philip, the second, was his successor; John, the fourth son, succeeded him as earl of Leicester; Thomas was a colonel of Dragoons, and left two daughters his coheirs; Mary, who married Sir Brownlow Sherard, bart.; and Elizabeth, William Perry, esq. of Turville park, in Bucks.; and Joceline, who at length succeeded his brother John as earl of Leicester.

Philip the eldest surviving son, succeeded his father as earl of Leicester, and married the daughter of Sir Robert Reeves, bart., of Suffolk, by whom he left no surviving issue; and Mary, the other daughter of Sir Robert, married Colonel Thomas Sidney, who left two daughters, as above mentioned. The earl died in 1705, and was buried in this church, on which the titles and estate devolved to his next brother, John earl of Leicester, who was appointed one of the lords of the king's bedchamber, and in 1717, warden of the Cinque Ports, and constable of Dover castle; after which he was installed knight of the Bath, captain of yeomanry, and lord lieutenant of this county. In 1732 he was sworn of the privy council, and at the same time constituted constable of the tower of London; he died unmarried in 1737, and was buried at Penshurst. Thomas, the third and next surviving son of Robert, having died in 1729, without issue male, leaving only two daughters, the title and estates devolved to Josceline, fourth surviving son, who married in 1717, Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Mr. Thomas, of Glamorganshire, but died without legitimate issue in 1743, and lies buried in this church, being the last heir male of this noble family, in whom the title of Leicester became extinct. They bore for their arms, *Or, a pheon's head, azure;* and for their crest, *On a wreath, a bear sustaining a ragged staff, argent; his muzzle sable, and his plain collar and chain or;* they also sometimes gave, *on a wreath, a porcupine azure, his quills, collar, and chain, or.*

Joceline earl of Leicester had, in 1738, suffered a common recovery of his estates, consisting of the manors of Penshurst, Cepham or Cophams, Hawden or Havenden court, Hepsbroke or Ford place, West Lyghe, East and West Ewehurst, Ensfield otherwise Yensfield, and Rendeley, in this county; the capital messuage of Penshurst place, with its appurtenances, Penshurst park, and the adjoining grounds, containing upwards of 1050

acres, together with the advowson of Penshurst and Cowden, and the rectories or parsonages impropriate of Lyghe and Yensfield; and the several woods and coppices in Penshurst, Lyghe, Bidborough, Tunbridge, Chidingstone, and Speldhurst; also Ford Place farm, Redleaf house, and other estates therein mentioned, situated in the parish of Penshurst; with several lands and tenements in Lyghe, Bidborough, and Tunbridge, in this county, to the use of him and his assigns, for ever.

Upon this, Sir Brownlow Sherard, bart., and Dame Mary, his wife, and William Perry, esq., and Elizabeth, his wife, the daughters and coheirs of Colonel Thomas Sidney, as before mentioned, laid claim to these manors and estates, insisting that Earl Joceline, by suffering such recovery, being before only tenant for life, had forfeited such life estate therein, and having no lawful issue, they, as heirs of the body, and heirs general of Robert earl of Leicester, were entitled to the next estates in remainder, created by a settlement made of the same by him in 1700, expectant on the estate for life of Joceline; and that therefore, they and their husbands were entitled to take advantage of such forfeiture; upon which, in 1739, they commenced a suit in Chancery for the recovery thereof. During that litigation, Joceline earl of Leicester died, in 1743, without legitimate issue, having by will given all his estates to Anne Sidney, his natural daughter, who being then an infant, she by her guardians, a few months after the earl's death, exhibited a bill in Chancery, against Sir Brownlow Sherard, and William Perry, esq., insisting that Earl Joceline was tenant in tail by the former settlement, and by the said recovery seized in fee simple, and she therefore claimed the estates under his will, as above recited.

After great litigation, the suit being at issue, was tried at the bar of the court of King's Bench in 1745, when, after a long hearing, the jury found a special verdict, wherein the insanity of the Earl Joceline, before insisted upon, was not mentioned, but remained still to be controverted; and as both parties found these suits at law very expensive, and that it would be many years before they would be decided, and as the guardians of Anne Sidney foresaw that if the will was set aside, she would be destitute of a maintenance, they agreed to compromise the dispute; it was therefore stipulated, that Sir Brownlow Sherard and

William Perry, esq. should enjoy all the manors and estates in the county of Kent; that one moiety should be settled in trustees, for the use of Dame Sherard, with remainder to her heirs; and the other, in the hands of trustees, for Elizabeth Perry, in like manner. And that each should be subject to a sum of money, to be paid for the use of Anne Sidney, afterward married to Henry Streatfield, esq. of Chidingstone, who was likewise to enjoy the earl's estate in Glamorganshire, according to his will, subject to such estate as Elizabeth countess of Leicester claimed therein. All which was confirmed by an Act of Parliament, passed for that purpose in the 20th of George II.

After the above arrangement, Sir Brownlow Sherard, and Mary, his wife, and William Perry, with Elizabeth, his wife, remained possessed, as tenants in common, of all the manors before mentioned, part of which they divided into separate moieties; that allotted to Sir B. Sherard consisting of the mansion of Ford Place farm, Yensfield, Moody's farm, Upper Latterhams, now called Warrens, Lyghe park, South Park priory; and Crouch lands, Court lands, with other lands and woods; and the advowsons of the church of Lyghe and Cowden. The other moiety allotted to Mr. Perry consisted of the advowson of the church of Penshurst, the parsonage farm at Lyghe, messuage and lands, called Nashes, Doubletons, Redleafe, and other lands and woods belonging to the same.

Sir Brownlow Sherard was descended from a younger branch of the Sherard's, earls of Harborough, and bore the same arms, viz. *Argent, a shevron gules, between three torteaux, with a crescent for difference.* He died in 1748, without issue, leaving his widow possessed of this moiety of the estates; who, in 1752, obtained the king's sign manual that she and her issue should use the name of Sidney, and the coat-armour of Robert, late earl of Leicester, deceased.

Lady Mary Sherard Sidney died without issue in 1758, and by her will, in 1757, gave her interest in these estates to Anne, widow of Sir William Yonge, bart. K.B., and daughter and coheir of Thomas lord Howard, of Effingham, for her life, with remainder to her son, George Yonge, bart. of Escot, in Devonshire. They, in 1770, joined in the sale of the undivided moiety of the Sidney estate, above mentioned, to Mrs. Elizabeth Perry, of Penshurst place; and in the sale of the divided moiety,

except the advowsons of Lyghe and Cowden, to Richard Alnutt, esq., merchant of London, who, on part of the land called *South park*, in this parish, built a seat for his residence, whereon he conferred that name, and dying in 1789, left this seat of South park for the benefit of his infant grandchildren, (his eldest son, Richard, being deceased in 1779,) the eldest of whom, Richard Alnutt, esq., who, in 1793, married Frances, daughter of William Woodgate, esq. of Sommer hill, possessed this estate, and resided there.

William Perry, esq., who married the other daughter and coheir of Colonel Thomas Sidney, bore for his arms, *Azure, a fess embattled, argent, between three pears, or.* He resided at Penshurst place, which he repaired and beautified, enriching it with a good collection of pictures purchased in Italy.

In 1572, he procured the king's sign manual, that the issue of himself and Elizabeth, his wife, granddaughter and heir of Robert, late earl of Leicester, deceased, might use and enjoy the name of Sidney only, and bear the coat-armour of the late earl.

He died in 1757, having had one son, Algernon Percy Sidney, who died unmarried in 1768; and five daughters, Mary, Jane, and Anne, who died unmarrried: Elizabeth, the second daughter, married to Bysh Shelley, esq.; and Frances, the fifth, to Mr. Poictiers, since deceased, by whom she had issue.

Mr. Perry left his wife surviving, who possessed the other divided moiety of these estates, and, in 1770, she purchased, of Lady Yonge and Sir George, her son, the undivided moiety of the remainder, so that she then became the possessor of the whole.

However, after Mrs. Perry had remained some years in the possession of this property, another claim was set up by John Sidney, esq., who vouched that he was the son and heir of Joceline earl of Leicester, by his wife, Elizabeth Thomas; and accordingly he, by the title of John earl of Leicester, instituted a suit against her, to recover the property, which came on to be heard in January 1782, in the court of Common Pleas, to be tried on a writ of right, the proceedings of which were all ancient and singular, being a grand assize, consisting of four knights of this county, with twelve gentlemen their companions, the tenor of whose oath was to say, whether the tenant who possessed them had more right to the lands than the claimant

Drawn by Shepherd

who demanded them. But Mrs. Perry, in support of her right, exhibited the will of Joceline earl of Leicester, to whom the demandant claimed to be son and heir; whereby the estates in question were devised away from him, and consequently he could not claim them by heirship to the earl. And as the issue to be tried was solely, whether the demandant had a better title than the tenant, the old maxim of the law, *Melior est conditio possidentis*, was cited, to prove that Mrs. Perry's title being in possession, was better than that of Mr. Sidney, the demandant, who had no possession, and had lost all right by the above will, which gave the property away to another; the court therefore being of that opinion, the grand assize unanimously gave its verdict in favor of Mrs. Perry.

The above lady, after that decision, continued in the uninterrupted possession of these estates till her death, which happened in London, the following year.

By her will, she devised this property, among her other estates in Kent, to trustees, for the benefit of her grandson, John Shelley, esq., eldest son of Bysh Shelley, esq., by Elizabeth her daughter, who, in pursuance of her will, procured the king's sign manual to take and use the name and arms of Sidney; and he is now the possessor of Penshurst manor and place, with the other manors and estates above mentioned.

Penshurst place is a fine old mansion, standing at the south-west corner of the park, which, though greatly diminished, is still of no small extent, as it contains upwards of 400 acres of land, diversified by hills, woods, and lawns, being well planted with large oak, beech, and chesnut trees, and the south side watered by the Medway. The celebrated oak which once adorned this park, called Bear's oak, said to have been planted at the birth of Sir Philip Sidney, measured upwards of twenty-two feet in circumference. It stood at a small distance above the fine piece of water, called Lancup well, and is thus celebrated by Mr. Waller, in a poem dated from Penshurst:

> Go, boy, and carve this passion on the bark
> Of yonder tree, which stands the sacred mark
> Of noble Sidney's birth; when such benign,
> Such more than mortal making stars did shine;
> That there they cannot but for ever prove
> The monument and pledge of humble love.

And again, by Ben Jonson, in his poem of the Forest:

> That taller tree, which of a nut was set
> At his great birth, where all the muses met.

The once magnificent, but now decayed, mansion of Penshurst, was formerly the residence of the valorous, witty, and wise Sir Philip Sidney; and there equally flourished another name, less dear perhaps to courtiers, but more highly esteemed by patriots, Algernon Sidney, this having been alike the birthplace of that renowned champion of liberty. It would, therefore, be idle to attempt an exordium upon a spot thus consecrated to virtue, patriotism, bravery, and the muses!

Penshurst, as we have previously observed, was a royal present from King Edward VI. to his friend and companion, Sir William Sidney, and gratitude induced his immediate descendant to endeavour to perpetuate the munificence of his sovereign, by the following inscription on a slab of white marble, over the entrance gate, and immediately above the royal arms.

"The most religious and renowned Prince Edward VI. king of England, France, and Ireland, gave this house of Pencester, with the manors, lands, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, to his trusty and well-beloved servant, Sir William Sydney, knight bannerett, serving him from the time of his birth, unto his coronation, in the offices of chamberlain and steward of his household: in commemoration of which most worthy and famous king, Sir Henry Sydney, knight of the most noble order of the Garter, lord president of the Council in the Marches of Wales, son and heir of the aforesaid Sir William, caused this tower to be builded, and the arms of that most excellent prince to be erected, A.D. 1588."

The principal front of this edifice, built of stone, plain, irregular, and wholly unornamented, opens into a beautifully wooded park of upwards of 400 acres, lately in part converted into hop grounds, and divided into distinct enclosures, but still retaining enough of the original outline to convey an adequate idea of its former grandeur.

That portion of the building which was contiguous to the grand gateway, to the left approaching the house, has been

entirely demolished, and the materials removed; but the foundations may be traced, which being added to the length of the correspondent wing, still remaining in tolerable preservation, give the total extent of this front at no less than 850 feet.

The mansion encloses a spacious court or quadrangle, to which the gateway before mentioned forms the principal entrance; crossing this quadrangle, an inner portal opens into the lobby communicating with the hall, from which it is divided by a screen or partition of timber, richly ornamented with carving and pinnacles, armorial bearings, coronets, crests, and other devices, having various openings resembling windows, wherein are placed ten ancient wooden busts, rudely cut, of sovereigns and other distinguished personages, not originally intended for their present situation; having been ornaments probably once thought appropriate for some other parts of the building. These figures, as well as the screen, were originally decorated with gilding and colours, but are now painted white, and have an effect almost approaching to the grotesque, if not ridiculous, when viewed amidst the solemnity of the massive screen that has become black with age and smoke. The hall is a noble apartment, eighteen yards long, by twelve and a quarter wide, paved with red tiles. In the centre is an elevated hearth, upon which is an immense bar and dog-irons. Above, in the centre of the roof, is a lofty turret or cupola with a lantern; light being also admitted by three windows in two tiers or ranges, at the end over the screen, as well as by very large sash windows, recessed in the sides of the chamber; and on that account it is perhaps the least gloomy of all the apartments of a similar description on the same area. The roof, which is from forty to fifty feet in height, is ribbed with timber, but, like the walls, much discoloured by smoke.

One table, thirty feet long, but very narrow, stands on the north side of the hall; as well as two others, about equal in length, on the opposite side to match. At the upper end is an elevated space, extending from side to side, and a long table with one form or bench, and a small stool standing near it. Behind the table, in the centre, is an indifferent painting of King Edward VI. represented habited in a Roman dress, and as a statue on a pedestal, the accompaniments on either side being intended to represent the screen at the opposite end of the

room, and produce the effect of a mirror; but the painting is by no means equal to the design, which, had it been well executed, would have produced an almost magical effect. The sash windows in this apartment must give offence to the antiquary, as being inconsistent; but it is said that the proprietor has it in contemplation to restore the whole of this magnificent fabric to its pristine splendor, in a style agreeable to its original design; in which case not only the absurdity above alluded to, but many other incongruities of modern date, will be amended.

A stone staircase, apparently copied from the plan of those of more ancient buildings, in which, the principal apartments being on the ground floor, the stairs were a secondary object, and calculated for convenience rather than show, conducts to a saloon, lofty, spacious, and elegant, combining the grandeur of ancient state, with the comforts and elegance of modern taste. It is about fifty feet long, having a fine coved ceiling; while at each of the four corners is a beautiful column of Scaglioni marble, supporting an urn. Numerous tables of mosaic, representing figures and landscapes, are loaded with rich old china vases and other ornaments, the entire furniture being antique. Suspended from the ceiling are two chandeliers, which, since the improvements of later days, would be called mean, although they were a royal present, and once, probably, reckoned amongst the most elegant productions of art. Among the various decorations, are two superb vases of Italian marble, and six smaller, of the most exquisite workmanship, particularly worthy of admiration. At the upper end of the saloon, a flight of steps leads to a closet or recess, which forms a private communication with the rest of the principal apartments. In front, and spread before it, is a kind of screen, covered with velvet, divided into five panels or compartments, each having a large square of plate glass made to draw up like the window of a sedan-chair; the frames before mentioned and covering being richly embroidered and decorated with mother of pearl, by the hands of Queen Elizabeth herself, who paid a visit here, and was entertained with *a masque* in this very chamber, her majesty being seated within this fine enclosure. The next apartment is the queen's drawing-room, which contains the identical chairs presented and used by her majesty during the visit alluded to. They are gorgeously ornamented, the frames richly carved and entirely gilt, the down cushions

and stuffed backs in crimson silk damask, embroidered with gold, being altogether so heavy as not to be moved from their places without difficulty. A brass cabinet, or stand, inlaid with tortoise-shell, is covered with curious and valuable antiques collected by the late Mr. Perry, some of the articles having been discovered at Herculaneum, and amongst the most remarkable (for they are by far too numerous to allow of an accurate description) are, a skeleton modelled in wax, lying in a little cabinet of crystal, said to have been found amongst the relics, and conjectured by the virtuosi to have belonged to Celsus, the famous surgeon and physician; and a petrified pheasant's nest.

The old tapestry which gives name to one of the rooms is transcendently beautiful, and the colours the finest imaginable, fresh as if from the manufacturer, and far surpassing every thing of the kind to be met with in England: it represents the triumph of Cybele on one side, and on the other Juno with Neptune unlocking the portal of the winds.

The page's room has a wainscoted ceiling in compartments, and contains a beautiful cabinet, being, like all the rest, full of paintings by the first masters, some in very fine preservation.

The gallery, completely decorated by pictures of all the great masters, is 100 feet long, having a recess and bow window peculiar to the age in which this house was erected, precisely similar to one at Charlecott, in Warwickshire, belonging to the ancient family of the Lucy's, immortalized by Shakspeare. In this gallery is another large cabinet, beautifully ornamented with exquisite paintings in small compartments, and figures of brass gilt, said to have been a present from King James I.

Within the recess is a large table of *lapis lazuli*, inlaid with the arms of the Sidney family, presenting *ninety-five* quarterings, being a fine satire on "the boast of heraldry," the weakest passion of the mind. It bears the name of Lamb. Cristian. Gori a Floren. A.D. 1753. In an adjoining closet, is a curious antique cradle of black wood, said to have belonged to George Villiers, duke of Buckingham. In the chamber that once constituted the library, are preserved, in a glass case, several folio volumes, containing all the original State Papers from which Mr. Collins composed his work; and in a remote part of the building, are a suite of rooms denominated the Buckingham chambers, having been inhabited by the dukes of that name.

The lower rooms are spacious, but not lofty; and an elegant modern staircase has been constructed, which leads to the apartments for domestic use.

On the front of the house, next the road, is a square slab of marble, bearing the following inscription:

"Sir Henry Sydney, knight of the most noble order of the Garter, lorde president of Wales and the Marches of the same, and one of the queene's majesties most honourable privy council, and late lord deputie of the realme of Irelande, 1579."

It may be presumed that this portion of the building was erected by Sir Henry, although that circumstance is not expressed; but it is difficult to imagine why the bare enumeration of his titles should have been inscribed so conspicuously upon the house, unless such were the case. Nearly a similar inscription is still remaining upon the ruinous castle of Ludlow, also the residence of the same courtly knight, Sir Henry Sidney.

Salmans is an estate in this parish, which had anciently owners of that name, one of whom, William Salmans, possessed it in the 9th of Henry VI.; soon after which it became the residence of John Rowe, who owned it in the 12th year of that reign. In the 7th of Henry VII., Walter Derkinghall, otherwise Darkenol, possessed it, who by will, in 1504, gave it to Robert, his son, and he passed it by sale, in the 23d of Henry VIII., to Thomas Willoughby, one of the king's sergeants at law, afterwards knighted, and made justice of the Common Pleas, who was one of his descendants. Thomas Willoughby alienated his interest herein, by fine and recovery, in the 13th of Charles I., to John Seyliard, esq. of this parish, whose descendant, John, of Blechingley, in Surrey, dying without issue, his niece and heir carried her interest in marriage to George Scullard, of London, who alienated this property to Mrs. Streatfield, of Chidingstone.

The manor of Hepsbrooke, the mansion of which is called Ford place, was the ancient habitation of the Sidney's, previous to their removal to Penshurst place, in the reign of Edward VI.; and continued afterwards in the same family, earls of Leicester, till it passed, with the residue of their estates, to Sir Brownlow Sherard and William Perry, esq. His widow,

upon his death, possessed his interest in this estate, and dying in 1758, bequeathed it to Anne, widow of Sir William Yonge, and her son, Sir George, who sold it to Mrs. Perry; when it was ultimately possessed by her grandson, John Shelley Sidney, esq. But the *Farm*, or *demesne lands*, called *Ford Place farm*, was, in 1770, alienated by Lady Yonge and her son, to Richard Alnutt, esq., who died possessed of the same, and whose grandson inherited the property.

At the southern extremity of this parish, stood a mansion called Chafford place, which was for many descents the property and residence of the family of the Roe's or Rowe's, a branch of those of Rowe's place, in Aylesford, in this county, who bore for their arms, *Argent, on a chevron, azure, three bezants, between three trefoils, slipt parted per pale, gules and vert.* But in the reign of Henry VIII. it was in the possession of the family of the Rivers's, descended from those of River hill, in Hants; one of whom, Sir Bartholomew, lived in the reign of Edward IV., to whom he was firmly attached. This family bore for its arms, quarterly, first and fourth, *Azure, two bars dancette, or, in chief three bezants*, by the name *of Rivers;* second and third, *Azure, a fess engrailed, argent, surmounted by another,* not *engrailed gules, charged with three roses, argent, between as many swans, proper;* which last shield was an augmentation of honour, given to Sir Bartholomew Rivers by that king, for his good and faithful services to the house of York. This coat of arms, together with the crest of Rivers, viz. *a bull at gaze,* was carved on the gateway of Chafford house, built by one of this family.

His son, William Rivers, had a command, in the reigns of Edward IV. and Henry VII., and by his will, in 1506, ordered his body to be interred in the cathedral church of Rochester. He left by Alice, his wife, Richard, his son and heir, who was father of Richard Rivers, of Penshurst, and steward of the lands of Edward duke of Buckingham. His son, Sir John Rivers, was of Chafford, and served the office of lord mayor of London in the 15th of Elizabeth.

His grandson, John, was created a baronet in the 19th of James I., and having married Dorothy, only daughter and heir of Thomas Potter, of Well street, in Westerham, procured an Act of Parliament, in the 21st year of that reign, to alter the

tenure and custom of his lands, those of Sir George Rivers, his father, as also those of Thomas Potter, esq., deceased, being then of the nature of gavelkind, and to render them hereditary according to the course of common law, and settle this inheritance upon himself, by Dame Dorothy, his wife.

After which, this estate descended down to Sir George Rivers, bart., who, by Dorothy, daughter of Sir William Beversham, bart. of Holbrooke hall, in Suffolk, had four sons, all of whom died without issue; and seven daughters. At his death, in 1734, he by will gave Chafford place, with the park, then used as a warren, with all his other real estates, to his five natural children, by Anne Maria Thomas, with whom he lived by the name of Rivers. But his surviving legitimate children, and the heirs of those deceased, filed a bill in Chancery to set this will aside; and after several decrees and processes at law, this estate was by the court ordered to be sold in 1743, when it was purchased by Mr. William Saxby, gent. of Horsted Cayns, in Sussex. He pulled down the ancient mansion, and built a farm-house on the site; when he died possessed of the property in 1783, in which year the estate was, in pursuance of his will, sold to Robert Burges, esq. of Lyghe, who died possessed of the same in 1794; since which, his widow marrying James Harbroc, esq., he became the possessor of this estate.

Redleafe house is a seat in this parish, situated at the north-west corner of Penshurst park, which remained for many years in the possession of the family of the Spencer's, who bore for their arms, *Quarterly, argent and gules, in the second and third, a fret or, over all, on a bend sable, three escalop-shells of the first;* and were descended from the family of this name at St. Alban's, in Herts. Gilbert Spencer owned this seat, and resided here in the reigns of Charles II. and William III., and died possessed of it in 1709, having married Elizabeth, eldest sister and coheir of Oliver Cambridge, of Newhouse, otherwise Harts, a seat situated in the southern part of this parish, by whom he had several sons and daughters. Of the former, Gilbert died during the lifetime of his father, when Robert, the second, succeeded to this estate, who was of Dorking, in Surrey, and dying without issue in 1730, it devolved to his brother, Abraham Spencer, esq. of Penshurst, who was sheriff in 1736; and dying unmarried in 1740, was buried in this church, having

by will devised this estate to Thomas Harvey, esq. of Tunbridge; and he died in 1779, bequeathing it to his eldest son, the Rev. Thomas Harvey, who resided there.

PENSHURST is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar* of the archbishop of Canterbury, is, as such, within the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, a large handsome building, is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and consists of three aisles, a cross aisle, and three chancels, with a tower steeple at the west end.

There are numerous monuments and memorials in this church, commemorative of the families of the Draynowt's, the Cambridge's, the Bulman's, the Paine's, the Egerton's, the Head's, the Spencer's, the Darkenol's, the Pawle's, and the Yden's, as well as for Thomas Bulleyn. There is a monument for Lady Mary, eldest daughter of the famous John duke of Northumberland, sister to Ambrose earl of Warwick, Robert earl of Leicester, and Catherine countess of Huntingdon, and wife of the Right Hon. Sir Henry Sidney, knight of the Garter. At the west end of the chancel is a mural monument for Sir William Coventry; another for Sir William Sidney, knight banneret, chamberlain and steward to Edward VI., the first of that name, and lord of the manor of Penshurst, obt. 1553. In the chancel is a very ancient figure, in stone, of a knight in armour, being the memorial of Sir Stephen de Penchester. In the fourth window of the north aisle are these arms, extremely ancient, *within the garter, argent, a fess gules in chief, three roundels of the second,* being those of Sir John Devereux, K. G. In the same window is the shield of the Sidney's; in the second window, this crest, *a griffin rampant, or;* and in the east window of the great chancel, are also the arms of England. In the east window of the south chancel are the family arms of the Sidney's, with all their quarterings; there were also, though now defaced, those of Sir Thomas Ratcliff, earl of Sussex, and the Lady Frances Sidney.

This church was of the ancient patronage of the see of Canterbury, and so continued till the 3d of Queen Elizabeth, when Mathew, archbishop of Canterbury, granted it to that queen, in exchange for the parsonage of Eard, otherwise Crayford, and though in the queen's letters patent, dated that year, confirming this exchange, there was no value expressed, nevertheless, in a

roll in the queen's office, it is there entered, the tenth being deducted, at the clear yearly value of £32 1 9.

Soon after, Queen Elizabeth granted the church of Penshurst to Sir Henry Sidney, whose descendants, earls of Leicester, afterwards possessed it; from whom it passed, in like manner as Penshurst place, to William Perry, esq., who died possessed of it in 1757, leaving his widow surviving, and she, at her death, in 1783, devised it to trustees, for the use of her grandson, John Shelley, esq., who has since assumed the name of Sidney, being the present owner thereof.

The annual value is now esteemed at £400 and upwards; but in the king's books the estimate was £30 6 10½, the yearly tenths being £3 0 7½.

An account of the *chantry* or *free chapel* of Penshurst will be given in the next parish of Lyghe, within the bounds of which it is situated.

In 1821 there were 165 dwellings in the parish of Penshurst; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 734, females 658, making a total of 1392 souls.

Lyghe is the next parish eastward from Penshurst, called, in ancient writings, *Leigh* and *West Leigh*, and *La Lye*; in the *Textus Roffensis*, Leuga, which in Saxon signifies a feeding or pasture.

This parish is about three miles and a half in length from north to south, and somewhat less than two and a half in breadth, and lies below the sand hills in the district of the Weald. The northern part is more above ground, and consequently dryer than the parishes last described; the soil mostly a stiff loam, and the lower parts, near the river, much subject to inundation.

The village is in the southern part of this district, with the church on the north side; and at a small distance stands the seat of Hall place, within the large district called Hallenden, stretching two miles and a half northeastward; the extremity of which, though now separated by the parish of Tunbridge intervening, nevertheless, from the best accounts, has ever been supposed within this of Lyghe.

The river Medway runs along the southern part of the parish; at a small distance southward from which is Endsfield. Another stream, rising at the foot of the sand hills, bounds the eastern side, and meets the river at Tunbridge; between which is the estate and mill of Ramhurst; and close to the boundary, adjoining Tunbridge, about a mile westward of the village, is the ground late the upper part of Penshurst park, called Lyghe, or North park, now the property of Mr. Alnutt. Above is Lyghe green, between which and Hall place there is much coppice wood, as also in the northern part of this parish, called Westwood, near Hall's and Fletcher's greens.

A fair is held here, on July 25, for pedlary wares.

THE MANOR OF LYGHE, otherwise WEST LEIGH, had always the same owners as the adjoining manor of Penshurst.

Sir Stephen de Peneshurste possessed it in the reign of Edward I., at whose decease, Margery, his wife, held it in dower, and died possessed of it in the 2d of Edward II., and her daughter, Alice, carried it in marriage to John de Columbers.

Soon after, this manor was conveyed to John de Pulteney, who was knighted, and four times lord mayor of London, having also possessed the manor of Yeanesfield, with lands called Tappenashe, in this parish. In the 12th of Edward III., Stephen de Columbers, brother of Sir Philip, released to Sir John de Pulteney all his right to the manor of Yenesfield above mentioned; and in the 18th of the same reign, Roger de la Lye, son of Godfrey de Essex, released to him all his right and title in the lands and tenements which the said Sir John had purchased of Emma, his mother, in this parish of Lye. In the 20th of Edward III., Sir John de Pulteney paid respective aid for the manor of Yenesfield, as the third part of a knight's fee, which John de Columbers held at Yenesfield of the earl of Gloucester, being parcel of that honour, and also for the fourth part of a knight's fee, which Emma de Tappenese held at Tappenese, those lands being called Tappenese corner.

Sir John de Pulteney died in the 23d year of the above reign, possessed of the manors of Leigh or Lyghe, Penshurst, and Yenesfield, South Park wood, Orbiston wood, Heversmede, Corton's lands, and lands in Lyghe and Tappenashe, it being found that William de Pulteney was his son and heir.

After the above period, these manors of West Leigh or Lyghe,

and Yeanesfield, passed in the same manner as that of Penshurst.

Sir Brownlow Sherard, bart. died in 1748, when his widow possessed the undivided moiety of the manor of Leigh, which she held till her death, in 1758, and bequeathed it to Anne, widow of Sir William Yonge, bart. who, with her son, joined in the sale of the same to Richard Alnutt, esq.; and he, with his son, sold the remainder of the undivided moiety of these estates to Mrs. Perry, of Penshurst place, who at her death, in 1783, left them to her grandson, John Shelley Sidney, esq. as before observed.

In the eastern part of this parish, near the river Medway, stands an ancient mansion, called RAMHURST, once reputed a manor, and held of the honour of Gloucester.

In the reign of King Edward I. it was held by the family of the Rowland's; whence it passed to the Colepeper's, one of whom, Walter, paid respective aid for it in the 20th of Edward III., as the sixth part of a knight's fee. It continued in the latter name for several generations, till alienated to the Worral's, and thence, about the reign of Henry VIII., to the Lewknor's; from whom it passed, first to the Dixon's, and then by sale to the Saxby's. By the latter it was conveyed to Richard Children, esq., who died possessed of it in 1753, when he was succeeded by his eldest son, John Children, esq. of Tunbridge, whose son, George, of the same place, afterwards possessed this property.

HOLLENDEN is a large district of land, which, from the best account extant, seems to be wholly within this parish, though that of Tunbridge intervenes and entirely separates the greater part of the parish of Lyghe from that in which Hollenden is situated.

It was, in very early times, part of the possessions of the ancient family of Fremingham, for, in the 55th of Henry III. Ralph de Fremingham obtained a charter of *free warren* for several of his manors in this county, among which was Hollenden. However, about the reign of Henry IV., it was in the possession of the Cheyney's, as appears by the ancient court-rolls, as several parcels of land belonging thereto were at a subsequent period called by the name of Cheyney fields. But, before the reign of Henry VIII., it became parcelled out to different

owners, and thereby lost the title of manor, so that there is now neither court rent nor service belonging to this property.

John Vane, esq. of Tudely was possessed of lands and tenements called Holynden, in the reign of Henry VIII., and by his will, in the 13th of that prince, devised them to his youngest son John, ancestor of lord viscount Vane, and the earl of Darlington. A house and part of the demesne were, about the reign of Henry VII., conveyed by sale to one Stace, whose son John died possessed of them in 1539, without issue, and lies buried in this church. This estate then descended to his cousin and next heir, John Stace, of Cobham, who left three sons and two daughters, and at his death devised this estate to George Stace, his sole heir, who sold it to one Turner, and he again alienated it to James Pelsett, since which it has again been so completely separated, that no two or three persons can be stated possessors of the same.

Another part of Hollenden was conveyed, in the reign of Henry VIII., to William Waller, from whom it descended to his son Richard, about which time this part acquired the name of Hall place, or Hollenden. Anne, his widow, survived him, and carried this estate to her second husband, Stephen Towse, gent., who died owner of the property in 1611 ; when, passing into the name of Crittenden, it continued with that line till the reign of Charles II., upon which it was alienated to the Harrison's, when Abraham Harrison, esq. died possessed of it in 1717. It then passed to the name of Burges, Robert Burges having claimed the manorial rights, by the name of the manor of Lyghe Hollenden. He rebuilt this seat, of which he died possessed in 1794, when his widow marrying James Harbroc, esq., he, in her right, possessed the same.

Lyghe is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a small building, without a steeple : there are also some good specimens of painted glass in the windows.

Among other monuments and inscriptions are the following; in the chancel three brass plates, that had been removed from gravestones, and are now nailed on the floor of a pew. On the north side is an inscription for Thomas Chann, esq. ; some mementos for the families of the Cartes', the Antrobus's, the

Seyliard's, and a memorial for John Stace, of Hollenden. Here is also a mural monument for Abraham Harrison, and another for Stephen Towse, gent.; while, in the east window of the chancel, are these arms, extremely ancient, *Or, three chevrons, gules*, and, in a small circular window, over the former, the shield of the Sidney's, earls of Leicester.

The patronage of this church, in the reign of King John, belonged to Sir John Carewe, and it appears to have so continued in the reign of Richard II., when Sir John Carewe de la Lye, otherwise called John Lye, of Kent, attended, among others, John of Gaunt, king of Castile, in his voyage to Spain. It was subsequently given to the priory of Tunbridge, which had been erected by Richard de Clare, in the reign of Henry I., and King Edward III. in his 22d year, at the request of Ralph lord Stafford, granted license to the prior and convent of Tunbridge, to appropriate the church of Lyghe, whereof they then possessed the advowson, to hold the same to them and their successors for ever. After which, the prior and convent applied to Hamo de Hethe, then bishop of Rochester, to confirm the appropriation of this church, the value of which, as it was then taxed, did not exceed twelve pounds of silver; at the same time they set forth the miserable state to which they were reduced in their church and monastery, as every thing had been burnt to the ground, and themselves in a state of the greatest poverty.

The church of Lyghe, together with the advowson of the vicarage, remained with the priory of Tunbridge till the suppression under Henry VIII., when, falling into the possession of Cardinal Wolsey, for the endowment of his colleges, it was, upon his disgrace, surrendered to the king, who granted his licence to Thomas Cardinal, archbishop of York, to appropriate, consolidate, and annex this church, to the deans and canons of the college founded by the cardinal in his university of Oxford. There it remained vested only four years, when that great prelate falling into disgrace in 1529, all his estates became forfeited to the king, where this advowson remained till the 36th of Henry VIII., when that monarch, in consideration of certain lands in Penshurst, granted to him and his successors, this manor and rectory of Leigh, or Lyghe, to Edward Frye, and the lands also called Priors and Bougers, late in the possession of William Coke, rector, as part of the said rectory, in as full and ample a

manner as the king himself, or the monastery, ever enjoyed them. These premises were then of the clear yearly value of £10 3 4, to hold to him and his heirs for ever, by the service of a twentieth part of a knight's fee *in capite*, at the yearly rent of 3s. 4d. free from all other rents and outgoings whatsoever, except a pension of 10s. yearly, reserved to the bishop of Rochester, and his successors, at the time of the visitation every third year. He died possessed of these premises the following year, when Thomas Frye, his son, had a grant thereof, who, in the 3d of Elizabeth, levied a fine of this rectory.

The vicarage of Lyghe was valued in the king's books at £9 18 9, the yearly tenths being 19s. 10½d. It is now worth £150 per annum, the vicar claiming all kind of tithes, excepting corn.

Sir John Carewe, patron of the church of Lyghe, Richard Carewe, rector thereof, with Alan de Ros, the vicar, granted to Sir Thomas de Peneshurst, and his heirs, with the consent of Benedict, bishop of Rochester, a free chapel for ever within his manor of Penshurst, to be served by its own proper chaplain. This chapel was suppressed by the Act of the 1st of King Edward VI. and the revenues seized into the hands of that monarch, at which time they were valued in the king's books at £6 5 per annum.

Sir Brownlow Sherard died in 1748 possessed of this advowson, leaving his wife surviving, who, by her will in 1758, gave it to Anne, widow of Sir William Yonge, bart. K.B., when herself and son joined in the sale of this estate to Thomas Harvey, esq. of Tunbridge, who died in 1779, and bequeathed it to his second son, William Thomas Harvey. The rectory impropriate, however, of Lyghe, on the division of the Sidney estates in 1747, was allotted to Mrs. Perry, and at her death, in 1783, she gave it by will to trustees for the benefit of her grandson, John Shelley Sidney, esq.

In 1821 there were 115 dwellings in the parish of Lyghe; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 464, females 412, making a total of 876 souls.

SPELDHURST is the last parish to be described in this lath,

joining Penshurst to the south-east, and was frequently written in ancient records, *Speleherste*, but in the *Textus Roffensis*, *Speldhurst*.

This parish is about three miles across either way; the north-west part, wherein the church stands, and Hallborough, is within the hundred of Somerden, as is also the hamlet of Groombridge, three miles from the church. At the southern boundary, where the river Medway separates this county from Sussex; throughout the whole district the soil presents a stiff clay. The rest of this parish is in the hundred of Wachlingstone, and stretches across a narrow district by Mitchell's and Tophill's farms, towards the parish of Ashurst, which it includes; thus entirely separating that part of the hundred of Somerden, wherein the hamlet of Groombridge lies, three sides of which it surrounds. The soil in the eastern part of this parish changes to one uninterrupted scene of lofty hills intersected by deep valleys, which consist of a stiff loam and barren sand, covering a continued bed of rock-stone, several appearing above the level of the soil, of large dimensions, and abounding much in *iron ore*, which renders the springs more or less *chalybeate*. At the south-east boundary of the parish is the noted resort of Tunbridge wells, situated about thirty-five miles from London, and five from the town of the same name.

The wells form the centre of the place, being a general appellation given to a number of scattered villages and dwellings, part of which are in the parish of Speldhurst, and the remainder in that of Frant, in Sussex. These consist principally of *Mount Ephraim*, *Mount Pleasant*, *Mount Sion*, and the wells properly so called, forming the centre of the place, near which are the markets, chapel, assembly-rooms, and public parades, called the upper and lower walks. A portico extends the whole length of the latter, supported by Tuscan pillars, which are much frequented by visitors as a promenade. On the left is a row of trees, having a gallery in the centre for an orchestra. In the neighbourhood of the wells stand the principal taverns, which are commodious, and more suited for the accommodation of the luxurious than the valetudinarian visitant. The new bath is a handsome building, and the theatre, libraries, and shops, fitted up with a considerable degree of elegance.

These springs were discovered in the reign of James I. by

Drawn by Bartlett.

THE NEW CHURCH TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

KENT.

Dudley lord North, while he resided at Eridge house for his health; and it is said that he was completely cured of a lingering consumptive disorder under which he had laboured, by drinking them. They are chalybeate, and nearly of equal strength with those of the German spa, being also deemed of great benefit in nervous and chronic disorders, as well as diseases arising from an impaired digestion.

Among the cluster of houses on Mounts Sion, Pleasant, Ephraim, and Bishopsdown, are many good dwellings, beautifully situated, and well adapted for the reception of the company who annually seek a temporary residence at this truly fashionable place of resort. The majority of the visitors is composed of families of the highest respectability, a confinement of intercourse to select circles being preserved with scrupulous tenacity. This preservation, however, of family dignity renders the place less attractive to the casual visitor, not regularly introduced, but if the traveller carries with him credentials in the form of an introduction, no place of public resort can be more desirable than this, even to the traveller of quick passage. To families of high name, who are known to every one, Tunbridge Wells presents a rare and gratifying temporary concentration of suitable association.

The air of this neighbourhood is eminently pure and salubrious, while the rides (to those whose nerves allow them to look without trepidation on abrupt descents, and acclivities, fearfully approaching to the perpendicular,) are delightfully varied, and abound in objects of picturesque attraction. The High *Rocks*, about one mile and a half from the wells, are much celebrated, and combine a gratifying assemblage of pictorial display. This spot is said to have been first brought into notice by King James II., who, when duke of York, repaired to the wells, with his duchess and two daughters, afterwards Queens Mary and Anne.

The trade of Tunbridge Wells is similar to that of Spa, in Germany, and chiefly consists in a variety of toys, made of wood commonly called *Tunbridge ware*, which employs a great number of hands. The wood principally used for this purpose is beech and sycamore, with yew and holly inlaid, and beautifully polished. To the market of this place is conveyed in great plenty, from the south downs, in Sussex, the little bird called

the *wheatear*, which, from its delicacy, is styled the *English ortolan*. It is not bigger than a lark, consisting for the most part of fat, and has a delicious flavor; but, being in season only in the middle of summer, the heat of the weather, and its richness, prevent its being sent to London, which would otherwise, no doubt, monopolize the whole.

These springs, when first discovered, seem to have been seven in number, two of the principal were some time afterwards enclosed, and much resorted to by the middling and lower classes of people. This was done by order of Lord Abergavenny, the bad state of whose health rendered them necessary for his restoration. In that state they remained till Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I., having been sent hither by her physicians, in 1630, for the re-establishment of her constitution, soon brought these waters into fashion, and occasioned the place to be much resorted to, which induced the lord of the manor to improve this general visitation, and turn the same to his own profit, as well as the accommodation of the company. To effect this, he entered into an agreement with his tenants, of whom he hired the herbage of the waste of the manor, for the term of fifty years, at the yearly rent of 10s. to each tenant, and then erected shops and houses on and near the walks and springs, in every convenient spot for that purpose, by which means Tunbridge Wells became a populous and flourishing village. A chapel was also built here in 1684, by subscription, on some ground given by the lady viscountess Purbeck, which was about twelve years afterwards enlarged by an additional subscription, amounting together to nearly £2300.

About 1726 the building lease granted by the lord of the manor of Rusthall, in which this hamlet is situated, expiring, the tenants of the manor claimed a share in the erections, as a compensation for the loss of the herbage, which was covered by houses. This occasioned a long and expensive lawsuit, which was at length determined in favor of the tenants, who were adjudged to have a right to the third part of the buildings then erected on the estate, in lieu of their right to the herbage; upon which, all the shops and houses that had been built on the manor waste, were divided into three lots, whereof the tenants were to draw one, and the other two remain to the lord of the manor. The lot drawn by the former comprised the centre one, including

Engraved by W. Radclyffe

STONTAIL COCKS ON RUSTALL COMMON, NEAR TUNBRIDGE WELLS.
KENT

...d by G. Virtue 26 Ivy Lane.

Drawn by G. Shepherd

the assembly-rooms on the public walk, which turned out by far the most advantageous of the three.

The customs of this place are all settled, the employment of the dippers is regulated, its pleasures are under proper control, and the markets plentifully supplied with fish, flesh, and fowl, and every convenience that can contribute to health and pleasure.

The whole neighbourhood of Tunbridge Wells abounds in springs of mineral water, but as the properties of all are nearly the same, the two first discovered were adjudged the best, and are held in particular estimation. These wells are enclosed with a handsome triangular stone wall; over the springs are placed two convenient basins of Portland stone, perforated at the bottom, (one having been given by Queen Anne, and the other by the lord of the manor,) and through those they receive the water, which at the period of spring is extremely bright and clear. The taste savours strongly of steel, but is not disagreeable; it has scarcely any smell, though sometimes in a dense air the ferruginous exhalations are very distinguishable. In point of heat, it is invariably temperate, the spring lying so deep in the earth, that neither the summer heat nor winter cold affect it. When this water is first taken up in a large glass, its particles continue at rest till it is warmed nearly to the heat of the atmosphere, when some airy globules begin to separate and adhere to the glass, and in a few hours a light copper-coloured scum begins to float on the surface, and an ochreous sediment settles at the bottom. Long-continued rains sometimes give this water a milky appearance, but do not otherwise sensibly affect it. From the experiments of different physicians, it appears that the component parts of this water are steely particles, marine salts, an oily matter, an ochreous substance, simple water, and a volatile vitriolic spirit, too subtile for any chemical analysis. In weight, it is in seven ounces and a quarter, four grains lighter than the German spa, (to which it is preferable on that account,) and ten grains lighter than common water. With syrup of violets this water produces a deep green, similar to vitriol. It requires five drops of *oleum sulphuris*, or elixir of vitriol, to a quart of water, to preserve its virtues, if it be removed to a distance from the spring.

The produce of these wells is said to be an impregnation of

rain in some of the neighbouring eminences, which abound in iron mineral, where it is further enriched with the marine salts, and all the valuable ingredients constituting it a light and pure chalybeate, which instantly searches the most remote recesses of the human frame, warms and invigorates the relaxed constitution, restores the weakened fibres to their tone and elasticity, removes those obstructions to which the minuter vessels of the body are liable, and is consequently adapted to most cold chronical diseases, lowness of spirits, weak digestion, and nervous complaints of every description.

The manor of Speldhurst, in the reign of King Edward III., was in the possession of Sir John de Pulteney, lord of the neighbouring manor of Penshurst, a man of great account at that time, who, in the 19th of the above reign, began the foundation in the parish of St. Laurence, Cannon street, London, afterwards called the College of St. Laurence, Poulteney, when he settled the manor, with the church of Speldhurst, upon that institution.

It so continued till the suppression in the reign of Edward VI., when it was granted, among other premises, to Sir William Waller, at the rental of 16s. 8d. per annum, of the clear yearly value of £13 14 1, together with the church patronage appendant to the manor, parcel of the late college of St. Laurence, London, to Henry Polsted. How the manor of Speldhurst afterwards passed, we do not find; but, having belonged to several intermediate owners, it devolved to the name of Goodhugh, and, in the reign of George I., was possessed by Richard Goodhugh, esq., from which line it passed by a female heir in marriage to Mr. Richard Round, whose son, Mr. Richard Round, of Stompel, in Seale, died possessed of the property, which was subsequently held by the trustees of his infant children.

Rust Hall is a manor of eminence in this parish, which had anciently possessors who thence derived their surname. Elias de Rusthall was proprietor of this estate in the reign of Edward I., and a good benefactor to the chapel of Groombridge, in this parish. His descendants afterwards contracted the name to Rust, and continued in the possession of this manor till the reign of Henry VI., about which period it was alienated to Richard Waller, esq. of Groombridge, whose descendant, Richard, in the 26th of Elizabeth, sold it to Mr. George Stacy.

By the latter it was conveyed by sale to Robert Byng, esq. of Wrotham, who died possessed of the property in the 37th of that reign. His descendants continued to hold the property for several generations, till at length one of them passed it away to Richard Constable, gent. of Groombridge, who sold it to Sir Francis Dashwood, bart., and he quickly after conveyed it to Maurice Conyers, esq., who possessed it in the reign of George II. By the latter it was alienated to Mr. O'Connor, and his son John sold it to George Kelly, esq , who resided here, and served the office of high sheriff in 1762, in which year he was knighted. He died possessed of this manor in 1772, leaving his three sisters his coheirs, viz. Anne Shorey, widow ; Hannah Tanner, widow ; and Martha, wife of James Spagg, esq. Mrs. Tanner died in 1780, since whose death, and that of her two sisters, this manor, in pursuance of their different wills, became vested in Miss Elizabeth Shorey, daughter of the former, and Thomas Christopher Gardiner, a son of another daughter of Mrs. Shorey.

A court-leet and court-baron are held for this manor.

Holands, now called the manor of Holland, was once the inheritance of a noble family of that surname, the members whereof proved great benefactors to the church of Speldhurst, and were allied to the Holland's, earls of Kent, who flourished in the reigns of Edward III. and Richard II. It continued in this name till the reign of Henry VI., when it was alienated to Richard Waller, esq. of Groombridge, in whose descendants it remained till Sir Thomas Waller, in the reign of Elizabeth, passed it away by sale to Thomas Sackville earl of Dorset, and lord treasurer of England, who died possessed of the estate in 1608. He was succeeded in this manor by his eldest son, Robert earl of Dorset, who dying soon after, Richard earl of Dorset, his eldest son, became possessed of this property. He conveyed it to one Lindsey, who, in the reign of Charles I., sold it to a Caldicot, and he, in the following reign of Charles II., alienated it to Mr. William Canfield. By the latter it was sold to the Rev. Mr. George Lewis, of Westerham, who devised it by will to his son, Mr. Erasmus Lewis, gent., who sold it to Sir George Kelly, and he died possessed of it in 1772, leaving his three sisters his coheirs. One of the latter, Mrs. Hannah Tanner, widow, on the division of certain parts of the

estate, became the owner of this manor, and died in 1780, having devised the property to her nephew, George Gardiner, a son of her niece, with remainder to his brother, Thomas Christopher Gardiner, who after his death possessed this manor.

A court-baron is held for this manor, which is entitled to heriot relief, and the quit-rents, amounting to £1 9 2 per annum.

Forbies, though now little known, was anciently a seat of no small consideration in this parish, and gave name to a family which afterwards became of some note in different parts of the county of Kent, though this was their most ancient residence. John de Feneby resided here in the reigns of Edward II. and III., and sealed with his paternal coat of arms; *A fess ermine, between three goats' heads, erased,* as appears by the labels affixed to his deeds. His descendants contracted their name to Ferby, one of whom having purchased lands at Paul's Cray, in this county, removed thither about the beginning of the reign of Henry VI., and alienated his ancient patrimony here to Richard Waller, of Groombridge, in whose posterity it remained till the reign of Charles I., when it was sold to Richard Chiverton, skinner and alderman of London, and lord mayor in 1658, son of Mr. Henry Chiverton, of Trehousie, in Cornwall, who bore for his arms, *On a mount, a castle triple towered.* From that name it was conveyed to Mr. Woodgate, who gave it in marriage with his daughter, to Mr. William Durrant, of Frantfield, in Sussex, whose son, Mr. Robert Durrant, afterwards possessed the same.

East and West Ewehurst are two manors situated in the southern part of this parish, which were formerly possessed by the family of the Read's, of Marden, in this county, originally descended from that family in Northumberland. They resided at Marden, till Sir Robert Read, chief justice of the Common Pleas, in the reign of Henry VII., having married Margaret, one of the daughters and coheirs of John Alphew, of Chidingstone, removed thither. He died possessed of these manors about the 10th of Henry VIII., leaving four daughters his coheirs; on the partition of whose inheritance, these manors, among other estates, were allotted to the share of Bridget, who carried them in marriage to the Willoughby's. They remained in his descendants till Sir Percival Willoughby, having, in the reign of James I., married Bridget, eldest daughter and coheir

of Sir Francis Willoughby, of Wollaton hall, in Nottinghamshire, he became possessed of that seat, and other large possessions in the county, and being desirous of increasing his interest there, conveyed the manors of East and West Ewehurst, in the reign of James I., to Nathaniel Studley, esq. His only son, of the same name, conveyed them, during the civil wars, to Mr. Christopher Knight, of Cowdham, on whose death they devolved to his son, Mr. Michael Knight, of Westerham, who possessed them in the reign of Charles II. Soon after the latter period, they were alienated to Sidney earl of Leicester, and passed in the same manner as Penshurst place, to Sir Brownlow Sherard, and William Perry, esq. Part of these estates were afterwards divided into separate moieties, and passing also to Lady Yonge, and Sir George, her son, were by them sold to Mrs. Perry, who left them to her grandson, John Shelley Sidney, esq., who possesses the same.

A court-baron is held for each of these manors.

NEALHAMPTON is a manor in this parish, which, in the reign of Elizabeth, was in the possession of Sir Richard Sackville, who, in the 19th of that princess, alienated it to Thomas Smith, of Westenhanger, who devised it by will to his second son, Sir Thomas Smith, of Sutton at Hone. In his descendants it continued down to Sir Sidney Stafford Smith, late chief baron of the Exchequer, who died in 1778, as did his widow, lady Sarah Smith, possessing this property in 1790; when, by her will she devised it to trustees to be sold for the benefit of her nephews and nieces, which accordingly took place soon afterwards, when the earl of Darnley became the purchaser of the same.

GROOMBRIDGE is a hamlet and manor in this parish, within the hundred of Somerden, and is separated from the county of Sussex by a stream of the river Medway.

It is called in ancient writings *Gromenebregge*, no doubt from some Saxon who was anciently owner of this estate, described as being situated in the manor of Redemenegge, a manor held of that of Ashurst, which in the reign of Edward III. was the property of William Russell, and Hawis, his wife.

In the reign of Edward I., it was in the possession of a younger branch of the eminent family of the Cobham's, of Cobham, in this county. Henry de Cobham, son of John, by

the daughter of Warine Fitzbenedict, was proprietor of this estate in that reign. He was of Roundal, in Shorne, and commonly called *Le Uncle*, to distinguish him from Henry de Cobham, of Cobham. In the 14th year of that reign, he, with Joan his wife, obtained the king's charter for a market to be held every week at Groombridge, and an annual fair after the feast of St. John. He died in the reign of Edward II., leaving by Joan, his wife, a son, Stephen de Cobham, of Roundal, who was afterwards knighted, and died in the 6th of Edward III., when one of his descendants alienated this manor to the family of the Clinton's.

Sir John de Clinton possessed it under Richard II., and died in that reign. He had by Idonea, his wife, Sir William de Clinton, who left a son, William, his heir and successor to this estate. In the 6th of Henry IV., this William de Clinton had possession granted of his wife's share of the inheritance of her brother, William de Say, and thereupon bore the title of lord Clinton and Say. He alienated Groombridge in that reign to Thomas Waller, of Lamberhurst, whose family was possessed of good estates in this county and Sussex, and bore for their arms, *Sable, three walnut-tree leaves, or, between two cotizes, argent.* His son and heir, John Waller, esq., was of Groombridge, and had by his wife, Richard Waller, who was a valiant soldier, and displayed great courage at the battle of Agincourt, in the 4th of Henry V., which was the greatest victory ever attained by this nation. The king's army amounted only to 9000 men, who were sickly and greatly harassed; whereas the French were 150,000 strong, in perfect health and vigor. The battle lasted from ten in the morning till five in the afternoon; during which conflict, were slain on the side of the French, one archbishop, three dukes, six earls, ninety barons, 1500 knights, and 7000 esquires or gentlemen; the loss of the English was very inconsiderable, not amounting to more than 400 of every degree. The duke of Orleans was found, by Mr. Waller, under a heap of dead bodies, when perceiving some signs of life remaining, he, by command of the king, was committed to the custody of the above officer, and in honour of his having captured so great a prisoner, had an additional crest granted to him and his heirs for life, viz. *Or, escutcheon hanging by a label, on a walnut tree,* with this motto, *Hac fructus virtutis.* The duke being conveyed by Mr. Waller

to England, was confined at his seat at Groombridge, which proved so beneficial to his health, that during his restraint at that manor, he rebuilt the house upon the old foundation, and was besides a benefactor to the repairs of Speldhurst church, where the arms of the duke of Orleans remained in stone over the porch. How long that prince continued with his captor we do not find, but he was certainly committed to other custody before the 8th of King Henry VI., as it was enacted in Parliament the same year that the duke of Orleans, then in the keeping of Sir Thomas Chamberworth, should be delivered to Sir John Cornwall, by him safely to be kept.

Richard Waller, esq. was sheriff in the 16th of Henry VI., and left two sons; Richard, the eldest, who was ancestor of the Waller's of Southampton; and John, of Groombridge; as well as a daughter, married to Sir John Guldeford. John Waller, of Groombridge, the second son, died in 1517, leaving two sons, William his heir, and John, who was ancestor of the Waller's, of Beaconsfield, in Bucks.; of which branch was the celebrated poet, Edmund Waller, esq., who courted, though in vain, with all the energy of poetical talent, the Lady Dorothy Sidney, eldest daughter of the earl of Leicester, under the name of Sacharissa.

William, the eldest son of John Waller, was of Groombridge, and sheriff of this county in the 22d of Henry VIII., whose lands, among others, were disgavelled, at which time there appears to have been a *Park* here. He died in 1555, and from him this estate at length descended to his grandson, Walter, who resided at Groombridge, and was knighted. He left two sons, of whom George, the eldest, left one son and heir, Sir Hardres Waller, a major general in the Parliament army, employed against Charles I., and one of the regicides; for which he was, after the Restoration, tried and condemned, but pardoned through the clemency of the king. Thomas, the second son, succeeded his father at Groombridge, and was afterwards knighted; he alienated this estate to Thomas Sackville, earl of Dorset, who died possessed of it in 1608.

He was succeeded by his eldest son, Robert earl of Dorset, who died soon after, and his heir conveyed it to John Packer, esq., clerk of the privy seal to Charles I., who resided here, and was a great benefactor to the chapel, which he rebuilt. He bore

for his arms, *Gules, a cross lozenge, or, between four roses argent.* He was succeeded by his son, Philip Packer, who died possessed of the property in 1686, and was buried in Groombridge chapel. He had by his first wife, Isabel, daughter of Sir Robert Berkeley, of Spetchley, in Worcestershire, two sons and two daughters; of whom, John Packer, the eldest, succeeded to this estate, and resided here. He died possessed of the property in 1697, leaving by Barbara, his wife, one son, Philip, and two daughters, Isabel and Anne. Philip Packer, esq. afterwards succeeded to this estate of Groombridge, but dying unmarried, his two sisters became his coheirs; the eldest of whom married Thomas Lyte, esq. of London; and Isabella, the youngest, first, George Rivers, esq., and secondly, Mr. Cook; who entitled their respective husbands to the possession of this estate. Subsequent to that period, it became vested in the court of Chancery; where it remained till purchased by Mr. William Camfield, who resided at Groombridge place.

He died in 1781, upon which it went by will to his three sons, Thomas, John, and Henry, by whom it afterwards passed by sale to Robert Burges, esq. of Lyghe, who died possessed of Groombridge place, with the manor of Redmerege, in 1794; and his widow marrying James Harbroc, esq., entitled him to the possession of this estate, of which he continues owner. A court-baron is held for this manor; and a fair, on the 17th of May and 25th of September, for cattle and pedlary.

The chapel of Groombridge, belonging to the hamlet, was dedicated to St. John the Apostle and Evangelist, and built before the end of the reign of Henry III.; in the 23d year of which prince, William Russell, and Hawis, his wife, granted lands in different places, to this chapel of St. John of Gromenebregge, in their manor of Redmeregge, and Robert de Speldhurst, and his successors, chaplains there, in pure and perpetual alms. It appears from a lease granted by the above-mentioned Robert, of part of these premises, in the 38th year of the above reign, that this chapel was likewise called the chapel of Redmeregge; several other benefactors of small parcels of land being also recorded in the *Registrum Roffense*, in some of which this chapel is mentioned as being situated in the manor of Redmeregge, in the parish of Speldhurst. John Packer, esq., who purchased this estate, rebuilt the chapel in 1625, and dedicated

it to the service of God, in gratitude for the safe return of Charles prince of Wales from Spain, whence it was afterwards called St. Charles's chapel. Over the door of this edifice was the following inscription, now obliterated, D. O. M. 1625, *ob felicissimi Caroli Principis ex Hispania reducis Sacellum hoc*, D. D. I. P.; over which was the device of the prince of Wales. He endowed it at the same time with £20 per annum, in consideration of a chaplain's board. The duty therein was still kept up, says Mr. Hasted, but there was paid out of the estate to the chaplain only £12 15 per annum. The hamlet being large, there is a numerous congregation; it is now esteemed a donative, in the gift of the king.

In the chancel of this chapel is a monument for Philip Packer, esq., obt. 1686; and another for John, his son, obt. 1697. In the windows are the arms of the Packer's, with their several quarterings; and in the middle aisle, is a memorial for John Pocton, minister of this chapel for thirty-six years, obt. 1691.

SPELDHURST is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, was a neat building, with a spire steeple at the west end. A dreadful storm of thunder and lightning, on Thursday, October 22, 1791, happened in these parts, which set fire to the church, when a ball of fire being observed to enter the shingled part of the spire, a thick smoke, followed by flames, issued thence, and no help being at hand, every thing contributed to its destruction; the high wind, rain, and hail having ceased, drove the flames from the steeple on the church, and, in about four hours, this beautiful structure was totally reduced to a heap of ashes. The bells were melted by the intense heat, and every thing that could be destroyed became a prey to the firy element, the stone walls alone being left standing, but in such a ruinous condition, as not to be fit for future use. It was however somewhat singular that the font, though left entire, was turned upside down, while the tombs and headstones near the church were considerably damaged. A brief was subsequently obtained in order to rebuilt this edifice.

The porch of the structure was very curious, being surmounted by an antique shield cut in stone, bearing the arms of France, with a file of three flambeaux, for Charles duke of Orleans,

who built this porch; having, besides, been a great benefactor to the repairs of the building, as previously observed.

By a fine levied in the 39th of Henry III., before Gilbert de Preston, and other justices itinerant, Walter de la Dene, then possessor of this advowson, granted it to Walter Fitzwalter, in tail general, to hold of him and his heirs for ever, at the yearly rental of 1d., and performance of all other services due thence to the capital lords of the fee.

Roger de Padlesworth was patron of Speldhurst church in the 48th year of the same reign, who released his right to certain rent and service due for lands granted to the chapel of Gromenebregge, situated within his manor of Speldhurst. In the reign of Edward III., the manor and church of Speldhurst constituted part of the possessions of Sir John de Pulteney, who, in the 19th year of the same reign, on his perfecting the foundation and endowment of his college of St. Laurence Poulteney, in Cannon street, London, settled both the manor and advowson thereon. Three years after, A.D. 1347, Hamo bishop of Rochester, at the instance and petition of Sir John de Pulteney, by his instrument, appropriated the church to that college for ever; nevertheless, reserving out of the same a fit portion to the perpetual vicar serving therein, to be presented to the bishop and his successors by the master or guardian and the chaplains of the college, whereby he might be decently supported and enabled to discharge the episcopal dues, and other burdens incumbent on him. And he further decreed, that they should take possession of this church immediately on the death or cession of Sir Thomas, then rector, (whom he by no means intended to prejudice by this appropriation,) without any further licence or authority obtained for that purpose; saving nevertheless, and reserving to himself and his successors, canonical obedience from the master or guardian and chaplains, or their successors, on account of their holding this church as aforesaid; and the visitation thereof, and other rights due to the church and the bishop of Rochester, as well as to the archdeacon of the place.

The patronage of the church of Speldhurst remained, with the manor, part of the possessions of the above-mentioned college, till the suppression under Edward VI., when it was granted, among other premises, by the description of the manor of Speld-

hurst, to Henry Polsted. In the beginning of the reign of James I. it became the property of a family of the name of Kearsley, and then of that of the Scamen's, of Carshalton, in Surrey; in which name it continued till 1759, when Tryphena, daughter of Thomas Scawen, esq., carried it in marriage to Henry earl of Bathurst, and they, in 1779, joined in the sale of the property to the Rev. Robert Gunsley Ayerst. He, about the year 1792, alienated it to Robert Burges, esq. of Lyghe, who died possessed of the same in 1794, when his widow marrying James Harbroc, esq., entitled him to this property.

In the 15th of Edward I., the church of Speldhurst was valued at eleven marks; it was estimated in the king's books at £15 5, the yearly tenths being £1 0 6. This living was afterwards valued at £300 a year: the parishioners claim an exemption of all small tithes whatsoever, which are estimated at the value of £200 per annum.

In 1821, there were 297 dwellings in the parish of Speldhurst; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 1065, females 1232, making a total of 2297 souls.

THE HUNDRED OF TWYFORD.

SOUTHWARD from the hundred of LITTLEFIELD lies that of Twyford, written in Domesday record *Tuiferde*, so called from the two fords which formerly existed over the two streams of the Medway, just above Yalding, in this district.

This hundred contains within its bounds the parishes of *Nettlested, Watringbury, Teston, and West Farleigh;* and part of the parishes of *East Peckham, Yalding, and Hunton;* with all the churches of these parishes. It also contains part of the parishes of *Brenchley, Capel, Marden, Pembury, and Tudeley;* the churches of which stand in other hundreds.

EAST or GREAT PECKHAM lies southward from the parish of Mereworth, and was written in Domesday PECHEHAM, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, PECHAM. It receives the appellation of EAST from its situation eastward from West or Little PECKHAM; and of GREAT, from its large extent, in comparison with that parish.

They both acquired the name of PECKHAM probably from their situation, *Peac*, signifying in Saxon, *the peak* or summit of a hill, and *ham*, a village or dwelling-place.

This parish is situated within the district of the Weald, in a country which, though for the most part too deep and miry to be pleasant, is yet extremely fertile, as to its productions in corn, hops, cattle, and fine oak timber, in which latter produce it abounds. It joins, northward, to Mereworth and Lord le Despencer's park, whence it descends, southward, for upwards of two miles, to Brandt, formerly called Stidal's bridge and Sladis bridge, and the river Medway, which flows along the southern boundaries; besides which, it is watered by a small stream rising near Yokes, in West Peckham, running through this parish into the river. The high road from Maidstone, through Mereworth, towards Hadlow and Tunbridge, runs along the western boundary of this parish; and that from Watringbury, through Nettlested, to Brandt bridge, across the Medway,

towards Cranbrook, along the the eastern boundary. In that part of the parish nearest Mereworth, is the village and church of East Peckham ; and, on the rise of a hill, the ancient and respectable-looking mansion called Roydon hall, the lands of which are bounded on either side by coppice woods ; thence the ground descends to a more wet and deeper country, presenting a stiff clayey soil, mostly grazing land, exceedingly rich and fertile, whereon are bred and fatted some of the largest beasts in these parts. On the roads leading to Brandt bridge, in this part of East Peckham, are several hamlets, viz. those of Chitley Cross, North-hatch, Hale Street, and others.

This parish was anciently bound, with others in this neighbourhood, to contribute to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge.

In 961, Queen Ediva, mother of King Edmund and Eadred, gave to Christ church, in Canterbury, among other lands, this estate of Peckham, free from all secular service, excepting the *trinoda necessitas*, of repelling invasions, and the repairs of castles and highways. Peckham remained part of the possessions of Christ church at the consecration of Archbishop Lanfranc, in the 4th of William the Conqueror.

The revenues of the church were at that time enjoyed as one common stock by the archbishop and his convent; but Archbishop Lanfranc, after the example of foreign churches, separated them into two parts, one of which he allotted for the maintenance of himself and his successors in the see ; and the other for his monks.

In this division Peckham fell to the share of the fraternity, and was entered accordingly in Domesday, under the title of *Terra Monachorum Archiepi*, that is to say, land of the monks of the archbishop. In the 10th of Edward II., the prior of Canterbury obtained *free warren* for his manor of Peckham, among others, about which period it was valued at £10. It continued part of the possessions of Christ church till its dissolution under Henry VIII., when it was surrendered to the king, who the same year granted this manor to Sir Thomas Wyatt and his heirs male, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service ; who, in the same reign, conveyed it to George Multon, but there being no fine levied, or recovery had of the same, the crown, on the attainder of his son, Sir Thomas Wyatt, for high treason, under

Queen Mary, seized upon this estate as part of its possessions.

The court lodge and demesnes of this manor were afterwards granted away by the crown; but the manor itself continued part of the royal revenue at the death of Charles I. in 1648; after which, the powers then in being seized on the royal estates, and passed an ordinance to vest them in trustees, to be surveyed and sold to supply the necessities of the state, when it was accordingly disposed of to Colonel Robert Gibbon; with whom it remained till the restoration of Charles II., when it again formed part of the revenues of the crown. The grant of this manor was for many years in the family of the duke of Leeds.

THE COURT LODGE, WITH THE DEMESNE of the manor of EAST PECKHAM, was granted, the year following the attainder of Sir Thomas Wyatt, to Sir John Baker, to hold *in capite* by knight's service, who passed his interest in the same, in the reign of Elizabeth, to Anthony Weldon, esq., but the queen, in her 10th year, disputing his title, granted the property to William Doddington; and the year following, the attorney general exhibited an information against the heirs of Weldon, in the court of Exchequer, on account of these premises, when judgment was had against him. A writ of error was afterwards brought, and divers other law proceedings had, whereby, however, ultimately Ralph, son of Anthony Weldon, above mentioned, established his title; and his son, Sir Anthony Weldon, in the latter end of the reign of James I., passed them away by sale to George Whetenhall, esq. On his death, they devolved by descent to the possession of Thomas Whetenhall, esq. of Hextall's court, in this parish, whose descendant, Henry, alienated this estate to Sir William Twysden, bart. of Roydon Hall; and his heir, Sir William Jarves Twysden, bart., ultimately possessed the same.

ROYDEN HALL, anciently called *Fortune*, is a seat here, which was of no great note till about the reign of Henry VIII., when Thomas Roydon, son of Thomas, of Roydon Hall, in Suffolk, where this family had been seated for many generations, came into this county, and seated himself at Fortune, where he erected this mansion, to which he affixed his own name, and, in the 31st of that reign, procured the disgavelment of his lands: he bore for his arms, *Chequy, argent and gules, a cross azure*, and

married Margaret, daughter of William Whetenhall, esq. of this parish, by whom he had three sons and five daughters.

On the death of the sons, without issue, his five daughters became his coheirs; the second of whom, Elizabeth, had this estate as part of her share, and entitled her husband, William Twysden, esq. of Chelmington, in this county, to the fee thereof. She survived him, and afterwards married Cuthbert Vaughan, esq.; and thirdly, Sir Thomas Golding; she left by her first husband one son, Roger Twysden, esq.; and a daughter, married to Richard Dering, esq. of Pluckley.

The family of Twysden, written in ancient deeds Twisenden, and in Latin *De Denna Fracta,* were originally of the parish of Sandhurst, in this county, the place where they resided being called the den or borough of Twisden at this time; they bore for their arms, *Girony of four, argent, and gules, a saltier between four cross crosslets, all counterchanged.*

Adam de Twysden resided at Twysden borough in the 21st of King Edward I., and dying without issue, as also his brother Gregory, John de Twysden became the heir; whose descendant, Roger, in the reign of Henry V., married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Thomas Chelmington, esq. of Chelmington, in Great Chart, who bore for his arms, *Argent, three chevrons azure, nine cross crosslets sable.* At this seat his descendants, who lie buried in Great Chart church, afterwards resided, down to William Twysden, esq., who was of Chelmington, and married the daughter and coheir of Thomas Roydon, esq., who in her right became possessed of Roydon hall, as before mentioned. He died in 1603, and was buried in this church, leaving issue twelve children, of whom only six survived him.

William Twysden, esq., the eldest son, greatly improved Roydon hall, and having been previously knighted, was afterwards created a baronet. He was a man who devoted most of his time to study, being a fine classical scholar, especially in the Hebrew and Latin languages, and collected many choice MSS. and books, which he left to his eldest son. He died in 1628, leaving by Anne his wife, eldest daughter of Sir Moile Finch, several sons and daughters, of whom, Sir Roger, the eldest, was his successor and heir. He resided at Roydon hall, and obtained a licence from Charles I. to enclose a park, and likewise a grant of a charter of *free warren* for the grounds enclosed.

He died in 1672, having greatly suffered, on account of his loyalty during the grand rebellion, being forced at last to compound for his estate for a large sum of money. He was a munificent encourager of erudition, and a generous patron of learned men, being himself a master of our ancient Saxon and English history and laws, and left behind him the united characters of the scholar and gentleman. In his descendants, resident at Roydon hall, this seat, with his other estates in this parish, devolved to Sir William Twysden, bart., who resided at Roydon hall, and married Jane, daughter of Francis Twysden, esq., youngest son of Sir Thomas Twisden, bart. of Bradbourn, by whom he had three sons; William, his heir and successor; Thomas, a colonel in the army; and Philip, late bishop of Raphoe; and three daughters. He died in 1751, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir William Twysden, bart., who at first followed a military life, but afterwards retired to Roydon hall, and married Jane, the daughter and heir of Mr. Jarvis. He died at Roydon hall in 1767, leaving his lady surviving, and had by her three sons; William Jarvis, Heneage, and Thomas; and one daughter, Frances, who, in 1718, married Archibald, late earl of Eglington. Sir William Jarvis Twysden, bart., the eldest son, married, in 1786, the daughter of Governor Wynch, and resided at Roydon hall, of which he was the possessor.

The manor of Alban's, (otherwise *Wimplingbury*, now commonly called Auborne,) as well as the manor of Black Pitts, or *Guildfords*, both in this parish, were anciently the inheritance of a family named Pollard. John earl of Pollard, in the 34th of King Edward I., demised them by sale to Alban de Wandsworth, who probably erected a mansion for his residence on the former of these manors, which thence acquired the name of Alban's. His grandson, William de Wandsworth, died possessed of them without issue, and by his last will gave the property to his widow, Mabel Wandsworth, who married Richard Ryner; and they, in the 2d of Richard II., joined in the sale of these manors to John Mew, who that year purchased of Joan Onley some interest she possessed therein, which had been purchased for her by one of her ancestors in the reign of Henry III. In the 9th of Richard II. the said John Mew procured from Richard Goldsmith all the interest and claim he had in the same; and John Mew, about the latter end of the reign of

Henry IV., passed away these manors, with their appendages, to John Tutsham and Nicholas Remkin, of Eastmere, in this parish; the latter of whom leaving an only daughter, Alice, she carried his moiety of these manors, with other lands in this parish, in marriage to Thomas Rolfe, of Tunbridge. His descendant, in the beginning of the reign of Henry VI., alienated his interest in the same to Thomas Stidulfe, esq. of Badsell, who likewise purchased the other moiety of the heir of Tutsham, and then by deed, bearing date the 4th of Edward VI., settled the entire fee of these manors on his two sons, Robert and Henry Stidulfe; in which deed mention is made of their having been purchased of Rolfe and Tutsham.

Soon after, Robert and Henry Stidulfe joined in the sale of the manor of Alban's to John Vane, esq. of Tunbridge, who died in 1488, possessed of this manor of Albony's, and other lands in the parish; in whose descendants, of Hadlow, in this county, it continued down to Henry Vane, esq. of Hadlow. He alienated this manor in 1589, to Roger Twysden, esq. of Roydon hall, whose direct descendant, Sir William Twysden, bart. died possessed of the property in 1767; and his eldest son, Sir William Jarvis Twysden, bart. of Roydon hall, became possessed of the manor of Alban's.

But the manor of Black Pitts, or *Guildfords*, descended to Thomas Stidulfe, esq. of Badsell, only son and heir of Robert, and heir likewise of his uncle, Henry Stidulfe, possessors of this manor, as above mentioned, who leaving an only daughter and heir, Agnes, she carried it in marriage to Richard Vane, earl of Westmoreland; and since his death, in 1762, according to the limitations in his will, it passed at length into the possession of Lord le Despencer.

Eastmere is a manor in this parish, which anciently belonged to a family of the name of Remkin. Christian, daughter of John Remkin, held it in the reign of Edward III., and it continued in that name till Nicholas Remkin, of Eastmere, leaving an only daughter and heir, Alice, she carried it in marriage to Thomas Rolfe, of Tunbridge, whose son, John Rolfe, alienated it, in the 6th of Henry VI., to Richard Ruyton. The latter, two years afterwards, conveyed it by sale to William Hextall, of Hextall's court, in this parish; and he dying without issue male, it was, by Margaret, his daughter and heir, carried in marriage

to William Whetenhall, esq., whose direct descendant, Henry Whetenhall, esq., passed it away by sale to Sir William Twysden, bart. of Roydon hall; whose grandson, Sir William Jarvis Twysden, bart. of Roydon hall, afterwards possessed this estate.

SPILSTED is a place here once accounted a manor, and was for several descents, as appears by the evidences of this estate in the possession of the Twysden's, the inheritance of an ancient family called Keyser. John Keyser died possessed of the property in the 5th of Edward IV., and gave it by will to his son, John, who dying without issue male, on the partition of this estate among his daughters and coheirs, one having married Matthew Chetwind, she entitled her husband to the possession of Spilsted; and he, after some little time, alienated it, in the 41st of Queen Elizabeth, to Roger Twysden, esq. of Roydon hall, whose descendant, Sir William Jarvis Twysden, bart. of Roydon hall, afterwards held the same.

There was once a seat in this parish venerable for its antiquity, which was called in old rolls HEXTALL'S COURT, having been the mansion of gentlemen of that name, who were of no small account in these parts, as well as at Hougham, near Dover, in this county, though they were originally seated at Hextall's manor, in Staffordshire.

Richard Hextall resided here in the reign of Richard II., and greatly increased his possessions by marriage with Anne, daughter and coheir of Richard Grovehurst, of Horsemonden. He left two sons, William and Henry; the eldest of whom seems to have inherited this place, and died without male issue, leaving his two daughters his coheirs, of whom Jane, the eldest, married Sir John Bromley; but Margaret, the youngest, carried this seat in marriage to William Whetenhall, citizen and alderman of London, descended from an ancient family of that name seated at Whetenhall, in Cheshire. He resided here at the latter end of the reign of Henry VI., and at his death, left a son, William, and Margaret, his wife, surviving, who soon after married Henry Ferrers, esq. of Hambleton, in Rutlandshire, second son of Thomas Ferrers, of Tamworth castle, in Warwickshire, by whom she had Sir Edward Ferrers, of Badlesley, in Warwickshire.

He possessed this seat in right of his wife, and was sheriff in

the 9th of Edward IV., being styled of East Peckham, having borne for his arms, *Gules, seven muscles, or, a canton ermine.* But on the death of his wife, Margaret, Hextall's court reverted to her son by her first husband, William Whetenhall, esq., who bore for his arms, *vert, a bend ermine,* and, in the 18th of Henry VIII., was sheriff of this county, and procured the disgavelment of his lands. In his descendants it continued till one of them alienated it to John Fane, earl of Westmoreland; at whose death, in 1762, it passed, with Mereworth and the rest of his estates in this county, to Lord le de Spencer.

The manor of East Farleigh extends into this parish, including within its bounds THE BOROUGH OF STOKENBURY, which lies in the lower part of the same.

At the period of taking the survey of Domesday, this borough was of sufficient account to be thought worthy a place therein, being part of the possessions of the great bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was therein entered. On the disgrace of that prelate, this estate seems to have passed to the priory of Christ church, in Canterbury, as an appendage to the manor of East Farleigh and East Peckham.

The pound belonging to this borough stands within this district, in the highway leading from Brandt bridge, towards East Peckham church.

This parish is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar* of the archbishop of Canterbury is, as such, within the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, is a large building, with a square tower at the west end. It stands near the summit of the hill, almost adjoining to the southern pales of Mereworth park.

In the 15th of Edward III., the taxation of East Peckham was valued at thirty-five marks, and the vicarage at twelve marks. In the reign of Edward III., the taxation of East Peckham was one caracute of arable land, with a meadow of the endowments of the church, worth £6 per annum, and two dove houses of the rectory, with the profit of the garden, worth 2s. 5d.

The church, with the advowson of the vicarage, was always appendant to the manor of East Peckham, and as such, constituted part of the possessions of the priory of Christ church,

in Canterbury, till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., when that monarch granted the manor to Sir Thomas Wyatt, and settled the church on his new erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, part of whose possessions it remained. This church was valued in the king's books at £23, the yearly tenths being £1 0 8.

In the 19th of Charles II., A.D. 1667, in consequence of the king's letters of injunction, the dean and chapter of Canterbury augmented this vicarage in the yearly sum of £40, but the annual income was afterwards estimated at £270 per annum.

In 1821 there were 278 dwellings in the parish of East or Great Peckham; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 910, females 814, making a total of 1724 souls.

Northeastward from East or Great Peckham lies Watringbury, called in Domesday Otringeberge, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, Wotringaberia. It is supposed to have derived its name from its low and watery situation. This parish is almost square, and about a mile and a quarter in extent either way.

That portion lying southward of the quarry hills, which crosses the northern part, is within the district of the Weald, beyond which there are some coppice woods, adjoining to East Malling heath. The land is exceedingly fruitful in corn, fruit, and hops, and is a soil of loam, thinly covering the rockstone. The village, which stands on the high road from Maidstone, towards Mereworth and Tunbridge, is both healthy and pleasant, containing the vicarage, a neat genteel house, almost rebuilt by Mr. Charlton, late vicar, and since much improved, the adjacent grounds being laid out in the modern taste by the Rev. Mr. Style, who for some time resided here. At the east end of the village is Watringbury cross, whence the road leads down to the river Medway, at the south-east boundary of the parish. It is well watered by several clear springs, rising near the Place house, the whole running into the stream which flows from Mereworth, and turning a mill, proceeds southeastward towards the Medway, which it joins near Bow bridge.

There is a vill or *borough* in this parish, containing the

western division, the *hamlet* of which is situated on the Maidstone road, adjoining Mereworth parish, being called *Pizein well*, from one Pizein, who owned the well here.

Lilly is another *hamlet* belonging to this parish, which lies about five miles to the south, and is surrounded by the parishes of Yalding, East Peckham, and Tudeley. It is a low wet place, which, with the greatest part of the land, was in the possession of Mr. Henry Simmonds, who, in 1764, alienated his interest therein to Alexander Courthope, esq. of Horsemonden, who dying, bequeathed it by will, among his other estates, to his nephew, John Cole, esq. of Horsemonden, who subsequently possessed the same.

Some years back, a singular, though very ancient, custom was kept up, of electing a deputy to the *dumb borsholder of Chart*, as it was called, claiming liberty over fifteen houses in the precinct of Pizein well, every householder of which was formerly obliged to pay the keeper of this borsholder 1d. yearly. The dumb borsholder was always first called at the court-leet, holden for the hundred of Twyford, when its keeper, who was yearly appointed by that court, held it up to his call, with a kerchief passed through the iron ring, fixed at the top, who answered for it. The borsholder of Chart and the court-leet have been for many years discontinued, and the borsholder, who is put in by the quarter sessions for Watringbury, now claims over the whole of this parish.

This dumb borsholder was made of wood, about three feet and half an inch long, having an iron ring at the top, and four more at the sides, near the bottom, where it had a square iron spike inserted, four inches and a half long, in order to fix it in the ground, or, on occasion, break open doors, which was frequently without the warrant of any justice, on suspicion of goods having been unlawfully gained and concealed in any of those fifteen houses.

It is by no means easy, at such a distance of time, to ascertain the origin of this *dumb officer*. The last person who acted as deputy was one Thomas Clampard, a blacksmith, to whose heirs it descended.

The market, granted in the reign of Edward II., is reported by tradition to have continued in a place called Chart garden, now a wood near Pizein well, in the south-west part of this

parish, in which wood there are to be seen foundations of walls and houses; while in the neighbouring lands are several draw wells.

Watringbury, with other places in this neighbourhoood, was bound anciently to contribute to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge. This place was, at the survey of Domesday, part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was therein entered.

In the reign of Henry II., Richard de Otringeberge appears to have held two knight's fees, in Watringbury, of Walter de Meduana, who held the same of the king *in capite*. In the reign of Henry III., this place continued in the possession of Gilbert de Watringberi, who bore for his arms, *Argent, six lioncels rampant, sable,* he having held this estate as one knight's fee and a half, of Wareni de Montchensie.

Soon after the above period, it devolved to the family of the Leyborne's, of Leyborne castle, in this neighbourhood. Henry de Leyborne held it in the reign of Edward II., in the 4th of which prince he obtained for his manor of Watringbury a market weekly, and an annual fair, on the feast of St. John the Baptist, with *free warren* for the lands therein. He died without issue, leaving his niece, Juliana, his heir, on whose death, in the reign of Edward III., without issue by either of her husbands, this manor, with that appendant of Chart, in this parish, and of Fowkes, in Mereworth, became escheated to the crown for want of heirs, when the king by charter, in the 50th year of his reign, granted these manors to feoffees, for the endowment of his newly founded Cistertian abbey, called St. Mary Graces, near the Tower of London. They remained part of the possessions of the above monastery till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., when that monarch, in the same year, granted them to Giles Bridges, citizen and baker of London, and Robert Harris, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service. But Giles Bridges appears to have had the sole interest therein, who, the same year, passed these manors, with the woods called Baldinge, Selwood, and Abbots Thorpe, to Sir Robert Southwell, of Mereworth, who, two years after, had a confirmation of these manors. He soon alienated them to Sir Edward North, chancellor of the court of Augmentation, and of the privy council, who, in the 6th of Edward VI., passed them by sale to Sir

Martin Bowes; which latter alienated them to Sir John Baker, of Sissinghurst. He died in the 6th of Queen Mary, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Richard Baker, who, in the 1st of Elizabeth, had possession granted of these estates, when his grandson, John, in the 17th year of the same reign, alienated them to Nevill de la Hay, son of Hugh de la Hay, by Anne, daughter and coheir of Thomas Roydon, of East Peckham. His son, George de la Hay, at the latter end of that reign, conveyed the manor of Chart to Roger Twysden, esq. of East Peckham; whose descendant, Sir William Jarvis Twysden, bart. of Roydon, ultimately possessed the same.

But the manor of Watringbury, with that of Fowkes, was conveyed by George de la Hay to Mr. Wilkinson, of Lenham, who bore for his arms, *Gules, a fess vaire, between three unicorns passant, or;* which coat was confirmed to Richard Wilkinson, of this place, one of the clerks in Chancery, by William Camden, clarenceux at arms, in 1605. He alienated these estates to Oliver Style, esq., second son of Sir Humphrey Style, of Langley, in Beckenham.

Upon the purchasing this manor, he retired to the mansion called Watringbury place, where he died in 1622, bearing for his arms, as did his descendants, *Sable, a fess, or, fretted of the field, between three fleurs de lis; and within a bordure of the second.* He was succeeded in this estate by Thomas, his only surviving child, who resided here, and was created a baronet on the 21st of April, 1627, being the 3d of Charles I.

His grandson, Sir Thomas Style, bart. of Watringbury place, married, first, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Armine, bart. of Osgodby, in Lincolnshire, by whom he had Oliver, his only surviving son, and four daughters; of whom, Mary, was married to Sir Felix Wild, bart. of Malling; and Susan, to Thomas Dalyson, esq. of Hamptons. By his second wife, Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Twysden, bart. of Bradborne, he had a son, Thomas, who survived him; and Margaret, married to Robert Viner, esq.

Sir Thomas Style died in 1702, in his 78th year, and was succeeded by his son by his first marriage, Sir Oliver Style, bart., who died without issue the same year, on which the title and estate descended to his half-brother above mentioned, who in 1707 pulled down the mansion of Watringbury place, (a very

ancient moated building,) and erected the present seat more to the westward of the other, wherein he kept his shrievalty in the 8th of Queen Anne, A.D. 1710, and resided there till his death in 1768. He left four sons, Thomas, who died in 1741; Charles, who succeeded him in title and estate; Robert, vicar of this parish, and rector of Mereworth; and William, a major general; and two daughters, who both died unmarried. Sir Charles Style, bart., of Watringbury place, married Isabella Wingfield, sister of lord viscount Powerscourt, and died in London, A.D. 1774, leaving one son, and one daughter, Sir Charles Style, bart., of Watringbury place, who married in 1795 the eldest daughter of James Whatman, esq., of Vinters, in Boxley, who afterwards possessed the manors of Watringbury and Fowkes.

WESTBERY is a manor in this parish, which, in the reign of Henry III. was held by Peter Fitz-Robert, of Simon Fitz-Adam, as the twentieth part of one knight's fee, after which it fell into the possession of a family that derived its surname from this place. Robert de Westbery was owner of the property in the reign of Edward II., and his descendant, Thomas de Westbery, paid aid for it in the 20th of Edward III.

The last of this name who owned the place was John de Westbery, who, in the reign of Henry VI., dying without issue, gave it by will to Agnes Ellis, his niece, and she, in the 23d of the same reign, alienated it to Richard Fishborne, who conveyed it by sale to Sir Thomas Browne, of Beechworth castle, treasurer of the household, and privy counsellor to Henry VI. His descendant, Sir Thomas Browne, of the same place, in the 25th of Elizabeth, passed it by sale to Roger Twysden, esq. of East Peckham, whose descendant, Sir William Jarvis Twysden, bart., of Roydon hall, was afterwards entitled to the same.

CANONS COURT is a manor here which acquired that name from having been part of the possessions of the prior and canons of Leeds.

This place, in the reign of Henry III. was in the tenure of Gilbert de Watringbury, who then held it as one fourth part of a knight's fee, of Simon Fitz-Adam, and gave it in pure and perpetual alms to that priory, which gift was confirmed by Bartholomew his son.

It continued part of the possessions of this priory of Leeds till

the dissolution under Henry VIII., who settled it on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester, where it remained.

Mr. Robert Scales was lessee of this manor, as well as the parsonage, in 1649, and resided here; and his son, Jasper Scales, esq., died lessee of both; Sir Charles Style, bart. having been subsequently the lessee.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

THE CODD'S were an ancient family in this parish, having had a seat here called PELICANS, to which belonged a large tract of land. William Codd, esq. died possessed of the property in the reign of King William, leaving an only son and heir, James Codd, esq., who resided at Pelicans, and died while sheriff in 1708, having borne for his arms, *Argent, a fess embattled, sable, between six pellets.* He died without issue, and intestate, so that his estates became divided among several claimants, one of whom, Thomas Kirby, gent. enjoyed the family seat as part of the share which fell to his lot, and his heirs conveyed it to Sir Thomas Style, bart., in whose great grandson, Sir Charles Style, bart., of this parish, it was afterwards vested.

WARDENS is an estate in this parish, formerly the ancient seat of the Wood's, who bore for their arms, *Argent, on a fess ragule azure, three fleurs de lis, or.* Robert, the last of this name who resided here, alienated the estate about 1674 to Sir Thomas Style, bart., whose son, of the same name, conveyed it to William Burleston, clerk, rector of Warehorne, in whose family it continued till sold to Mr. John Whitaker, gent., of Barming, and his nephew, Thomas Whitaker, esq. of Trottescliine, afterwards possessed it.

WATRINGBURY is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, stands at the west end of the village, being an ancient Gothic building, with a lofty spire steeple, and was repaired at a great expense in 1745. The church is handsomely paved and wainscoted; there are also some good remains of stained glass in the windows, particularly of King Edward III. and his queen; and, before the great hailstorm, there remained in the south window the history of the decollation of St. John the Baptist, very entire, which by that tempest was partly broken.

The church was anciently appendant to the manor of Canons court, and given in the reign of Henry II. by Hamo, son of Richard de Watringbury, lord of this parish, to the prior and canons of Leeds, and confirmed to the same by Walter, then bishop of Rochester, who, on the resignation of Walter, then rector, admitted the prior, in the name of his convent, into actual possession.

The vicarage of Watringbury was a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear value of £48, the yearly tenths being estimated at 10s.

Mr. George Charlton, vicar of this place, rebuilt the vicarage house in 1731, at the expense of £400, and, having obtained £100 from Sir William Langhorne's legacy, and £15 15s. from the dean and chapter of Rochester, he added the residue, to make complete the sum of £200, and thereby entitled this vicarage to Queen Anne's bounty in the further sum of £200, with which it was augmented about 1732.

In 1821 there were 176 dwellings in the parish of Watringbury; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 476, females 439, making a total of 915 souls.

Nettlested lies southward from Watringbury, called in Domesday record, *Nedested.* This parish is situated on the western bank of the Medway, constituting its eastern boundary, whence the ground rises to the lands of Roydon hall, on the opposite side. It is within the district of the Weald, the situation being low and rather gloomy, from the number of spreading and lofty oaks interspersed. The soil is a fertile clay, consisting of much rich grazing land, like that described in East Peckham; the high road from Maidstone, through Watringbury, to Tunbridge, branching off from the latter place, and leading through this parish, not far from the banks of the river. In the northern part is the church, and at some distance the remains of the ancient *Place house,* by which it appears to have been built of stone, with handsome Gothic windows. On a stone portal, in the west front, is the date 1537, probably that of some considerable repairs or additions made to the structure, as the other parts of the building carry with them marks of much

higher antiquity. The grand entrance to the house, from the river, is yet standing, and the form of the ancient gardens, with the ponds also remain. The mansion appears to have been spacious and noble, equal to the respectable families who were once residents here, though now the whole is overrun by weeds and shrubs, and bears with it every mark of that vicissitude and ruin incidental to the labours of man. The edifice is now used as an oast to dry hops, and also serves as the residence of a labourer, the occupant of the manor farm living in a modern house, near the church. Thence the road leads through the village standing at Nettlested green, where it divides to the left, leading towards the river at Twyford bridge, the other route proceeding straight forwards, through Hail street, at Brandt bridge, both conducting towards the southern part of the Weald, and Sussex. The groves of young oaks, elms, and other trees, planted along the borders of the river Medway, greatly contribute to the beauty of the scenery, which is considerably heightened by the rich gardens of hops, and the different dwellings and cottages intervening at frequent spaces between them.

This parish, with others in the neighbourhood, was anciently bound to contribute to the repair of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge.

In the reign of William the Conqueror, this place was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in that famous survey.

From another record in the same book it appears that Rayner, or Ranulf de Columbels, who held the manor of West Farleigh, under the bishop, as *one suling*, held also another part of this estate.

On the disgrace of the above ecclesiastic, these manors, comprehending Nettlested, with Hylth and Pimpe, were afterwards held of the Clare's, earls of Gloucester, as chief lords of the fee, by the eminent family of the Pimpe's, who assumed their name from the latter place, making it the principal seat of their residence, though they had another in East Farleigh, in this neighbourhood, and a third at Allhallows, in the hundred of Hoo. They bore for their arms, *Gules, two bars argent, a chief Vaine,* as they now remain painted in the windows of this church.

Richard de Pimpe held these manors in the reigns of Ed-

ward I. and II., and his descendant, Sir Philip, was a man of eminence and property in this county.

His widow, Joan, married John de Cologne, who, with her son, Sir Thomas de Pimpe, paid respective aid for their lands in Nettlested, and those adjoining.

William, son of Sir Thomas de Pimpe, possessed Nettlested, and was sheriff in the reign of Edward III. His son, Reginald, succeeded him, and, on the death of his father, served the office of sheriff.

His descendants continued to reside at Pimpe's court, in this parish, two of whom, Reginald and John Pimpe, engaging unsuccessfully in assisting Henry duke of Buckingham against Richard III., were attainted, and their estates declared forfeit to the crown. However, on the death of Richard, and the earl of Richmond attaining the crown, they were restored in blood and estates. Reginald died without issue male, leaving an only daughter and heir Anne, for whom an Act had passed in the 1st year of the latter reign. She married Sir John Scott, of Scott's hall; John Pimpe, in the reign of Henry VII. having kept his shrievalty at Pimpe's court, in East Farleigh. He died in the 11th of that reign, A.D. 1495, possessed of the manor, with the advowson of the church of Nettlested, the manor of Hylthe, as well as Pimpe and Yalding, in Yalding, all held of the duchess of Buckingham. He left an only daughter and heir Winifred, married to Sir John Rainsford, who in her right possessed this manor, and died in the 1st of Elizabeth, leaving his wife surviving, who appears by the escheat rolls to have been a lunatic, and died possessed of these manors in the 18th year of that reign. At the above period, Sir Thomas Scott, of Scott's hall, (grandson of Sir John, above mentioned,) seems to have succeeded as her next of kin; and his second son, Sir John, possessed these estates, and resided at Nettlested, which by the date remaining on the ruins, he seems to have greatly embellished. He was twice married, but left no issue, and these manors, on his death, devolved to his brother, Edward Scott, esq., of Scott's hall, whose descendant, George, alienated the manors of Nettlested, Hylthe, and Pimpe, with the mansion and advowson of the church of Nettlested, to Sir Philip Boteler, bart. of Teston, whose son, Sir Philip, died possessed of them in 1772, having by will devised one moiety of his estates to Mrs. Elizabeth

Bouverie, of Chart Sutton, and the other to Viscountess Folkstone, and William Bouverie, earl of Radnor, both since deceased; and, on a partition of his estates between them, the manors and estates of Nettlested were allotted to Elizabeth Bouverie, afterwards of Teston, who possessed the same.

The Manor of Lomewood, or *Laysers*, formerly called *Lomewood*, or *Bromes*, in this parish, was part of the possessions of the family of Clare, earls of Gloucester, and settled by one of them on the priory of Black canons, at Tunbridge, in this county.

This manor continued part of the revenues of the above priory till its dissolution under Henry VIII., when that monarch granted it to Cardinal Wolsey, for the endowment of his college at Oxford.

Upon the disgrace of the above ecclesiastic, the king granted this manor of Lomewood to Sir Edward Nevill, third son of lord Abergavenny, whose daughter Catherine carried it in marriage to George Roydon, son of Thomas, of East Peckham; and, for a certain sum paid to her father, he conveyed it by the name of Cardinal's lands, to George Roydon, above mentioned. On the death of his sons, without issue, his five daughters became his coheirs, the second of whom, Elizabeth, as part of her share of inheritance, entitled her husband, William Twysden, esq. of Chelmington, to this manor, then held *in capite*, and in his descendants it continued down to Sir William Jarvis Twysden, bart., of Roydon hall, in East Peckham.

Nettlested is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, which stands at the east side of the village, is dedicated to St. Mary, presenting a small but handsome building, with a low pointed tower or steeple, there being also some good remains of painted glass in the windows. The church of Nettlested was always esteemed an appendage to the manor, and as such was under the patronage of Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Teston.

It was valued in the king's books, with the chapel of Barming Jett annexed, at £12 10 10, the yearly tenths being £1 5 1.

The learned Sir Roger Twysden, who lived in the reigns of king James I. and Charles I., in his discourse on the Weald,

says, that in the time of the Lady Golding, who hired the tithes of this parish, Nettlested was held to be in the Weald, and she denied the tithe of wood accordingly; yet the rector then affirmed to Sir Roger, that all who had wood in the parish paid tithe of the same at that period, with the exception of himself.

The parsonage house is a large ancient well-timbered building, having a court yard in front, and an ancient gateway, through which is the entrance from the high road.

In 1821 there were thirty-four dwellings in the parish of Nettlested; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 125, females 130, making a total of 255 souls.

Teston lies eastward from Watringbury, sometimes called *Teeson*, in Domesday written Testan, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, Terstana. This parish is a borough, having a court-leet of itself, where the borsholder is chosen, the inhabitants owing no service to the court-leet held for the hundred of Twyford, whereas a constable for that hundred may be chosen there out of this borough.

Teston is beautifully situated on the side of the hill, declining southward towards the river Medway, which constitutes its southern boundary, opposite to West Farleigh. The soil is in general a fertile loam, covering the quarry rock, which being dry and healthy, is exceedingly productive for corn, fruit, and hop plantations. The high road from Maidstone, towards Watringbury and Tunbridge, leads along the lower part of this parish; between which and the river, the neat-kept grass lands, separated from the road by a handsome white railed fence, produce a very pleasing effect. Hence the road branches off, to the right, to Ofham and Town Malling; and to the left, to Coxheath, Yalding, and the Weald, across the river, where there is a lofty stone bridge of seven arches, which, notwithstanding its height, is frequently rendered impassable, from the sudden overflowings of the stream, at times rising nearly eighteen feet above its usual level, in the space of twenty-four hours, and as quickly falling, unless augmented by repeated rains. Teston Park pales adjoin the northern side of the Maidstone road, whence the park rises to Teston house, which being of white stucco, presents a con-

spicuous object to the neighbouring country, with the adjoining grounds, which were, some years back, greatly ornamented and laid out in the modern taste, by Mrs. Bouverie. The soil keeps rising at the back of the mansion and the park, which is well covered with fine large trees, as well as modern plantations of various kinds, which extend to the woods, the same being remarkably prolific in large oaks, and thence extends to East Malling heath. In this direction, however, the land is a deeper soil, and less fertile than the more southern parts of the parish. Teston house commands a beautiful view, having in front the river Medway, the bridge, the cascades at Tutsham, with the lock below them, the pretty village of West Farleigh, and its church on the opposite hill. Southwestward, the prospect extends along the valley, where nature and art combine to render the prospect more delightful, having the river Medway meandering its silver stream, the elegant mansion and church of Mereworth beyond, and at the extremity, the lofty woods on the range of hills, above the town of Tunbridge.

The village, with the church and vicarage, a neat modern-built house, stands mostly within the western pales of the park, at no great distance from Teston house; close to the front of which, the high Maidstone road passed, till the late Sir Philip Boteler procured licence to have it removed to a greater distance, where it now forms a kind of half circle, midway between the mansion and the river.

The western extremity of this parish is the boundary of the Weald, that is to say, from the hill, above Watringbury, across the river, towards the hill above Burston, in Hunton, excluding Teston from its district. Dr. Plott mentions the having discovered the remains of a Roman way, which seemed to have passed the Medway about Teston, and, he conjectures, crossed Coxheath, and pointed towards Lenham; but Mr. Hasted believes it was merely founded on his own surmise.

Teston was part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record. On the disgrace of that prelate, it was granted by the Conqueror to Robert, son of Hamon de Crevequer, whose descendant, Hamon, died possessed of the estate in the 47th of Henry III., holding it *in capite,* as a member of the manor of Chatham, which was held of the king *in capite,* by barony.

He left Robert, his grandson, his heir, who afterwards took part with the discontented barons against the king, when this manor was seized, among the rest of his estates ; and remained vested in the crown till the reign of Edward I., who gave it to Eleanor, his queen ; and she, in the 18th year of the same reign, made a donation of it, with other premises, to the priory of Christ church, in Canterbury, in exchange, for the port of Sandwich ; which gift King Edward I. confirmed the same year. King Edward II. also, by a charter in his 10th year, granted to the prior of Christ church *free warren* in all the demesne lands which the priory had possessed here in the time of his grandfather, or at any subsequent period.

The manor of Teston continued part of the possessions of the priory till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., when it was, together with all its lands and revenues, surrendered to the king, who, the same year, granted this manor to Sir Thomas Wyatt, to hold *in capite*; whose son, of the same name, having raised a rebellion in the 1st of Queen Mary, was attainted, and his estates forfeited to the crown, when the queen granted this manor to Sir John Baker, her attorney general, to hold *in capite*. In his descendants it continued down to Sir John Baker, of Sissinghurst, who, after the death of Charles I., alienated it to Mr. Jasper Cleyton, of London, who passed it by sale to Sir Oliver Boteler, bart. of Berham court, in this parish. His grandson, Sir Philip Boteler, bart. of the same place, died possessed of the estate in 1772, without issue, and by will devised one moiety of his property to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Chart Sutton, and the other, to Elizabeth viscountess Folkstone, and William Bouverie, earl of Radnor, both since deceased ; when, on a partition of his estates, this manor was, among others, allotted to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Berham court, otherwise Teston house, in this parish.

Teston house, formerly known by the name of *Berham court*, was once the mansion or residence of the family of Berham, usually called Barham, but whose original name was Fitz-Urse. Randal Fitz-Urse was one of those four knights belonging to the household of Henry II., who undertook to murder Archbishop Thomas Becket, which was accomplished in the cathedral church of Canterbury, on the 30th December, 1170.

After the perpetration of that deed, Randal Fitz-Urse fled into Ireland, and there changed his name to Mac-Mahon, which, in the Irish tongue, signifies the *son of a bear*. After his flight, Robert de Berham, his kinsman, entered on his estate in this parish, from whom it descended to John de Berham, who was by Henry, prior of Christ church, created a public notary of the diocese of Canterbury, in 1309, an office at that time of much trust and eminence, with which the prior was empowered to invest any person, by a commission granted to him by Bassianus de Alliate, count Palatine, of Milan, who had received such power originally from the emperor. The family of Berham bore for their arms, *Argent, three bears passant, sable, muzzled or.* There was a branch of this family settled at Wadhurst, in Sussex, of which was Nicholas Berham, serjeant at law; and another branch at Boughton Monchensie, in this county.

In the descendants of John de Berham this seat continued down to Thomas Berham, esq. of Berham court; and he left one daughter and heir, Anne, who carried it in marriage to Sir Oliver Boteler, of Sharnbrooke, in Bedfordshire. He removed hither, and was knighted by James I. at Whitehall in 1604, which family was descended from Thomas Pincerna, who lived in the reign of King John, and sealed with a covered cup, bearing this inscription, as appears by the old family deeds, encircling the seal, *Sigillum Thomæ Pincernæ*, probably from his having been chief butler to that prince; whence his successors assumed the name of Butler, or Boteler. His descendant was Robert le Boteler, called in a Latin deed, without date, *Robertus Pincerna*, as is also supposed from his having filled the same office. He left three sons, Robert, called in a Latin deed *Le Boteler*, Thomas, and William, who was a priest. The descendants of Robert le Boteler, who afterwards wrote themselves Boteler only, settled first at Yatton, and afterwards at Droitwich, in Worcestershire, when they altered their name to Butteler; and about the reign of Henry VIII., George Butteler, esq. removed his residence to Sharnbrooke, in Bedfordshire. His descendant, Oliver Butteler, esq. of Sharnbrooke, first changed the spelling of his name again to Boteler, and having married Anne, daughter and sole heir of Thomas Berham, esq. of Berham place, removed hither, as before mentioned. He bore for his arms, first, *Boteler*,

argent, on a chief sable, three cups, or, quartered with *Wibbe, Froxmore, Bachecott, and Berham.* He died in 1632, in London, and was buried at Teston. His eldest son, Sir John, died without issue, and was succeeded by his next surviving brother, William, who removed from Saltwood to Berham court. He was a man of exemplary loyalty, and firm in his attachment to his royal master, King Charles I., by whom he was first knighted, and afterwards, in 1641, created a baronet, and became one of the gentlemen pensioners. In 1642, he joined with the neighbouring gentry in presenting a petition to the house of commons for a peace, the same being delivered by Captain Richard Lovelace; and for which, by an order of the house, Sir William was imprisoned in the Fleet for seven weeks, being released on giving bail for £20,000.

He afterwards greatly suffered, from his house at Berham court being broken open, when he was robbed and plundered of every thing valuable, and the remainder of his effects destroyed; he was subsequently compelled to compound for his estate for £3011 and upwards. Sir William Boteler afterwards raised and armed a regiment at his own expense, for the king's service, at the head of which he was slain in the encounter between the king's forces and those of the Parliament, under Sir William Waller, at Cropedy bridge, in 1644. His only son and heir, Sir Oliver, bart., was of Berham court, and left a son, Philip, and a daughter, Joan, who married Christopher Rhodes, esq.

Sir Philip Boteler, bart., the son, resided at Berham court, and married, in 1690, Anne, daughter of Sir Edward Desbouverie, of Chesunt, in Herts. by whom he had one son and heir, Sir Philip Boteler, bart. of Berham court; which seat, from that time, acquired the name of *Teston house.* He was a gentleman of most amiable disposition and polite manners, whose benevolence and goodness of heart made him universally beloved and respected. He died at Teston in 1772, where he was buried, having married Elizabeth, only daughter and heir of Thomas Williams, esq. of Cabalva, in Radnorshire, by whom he had an only daughter, Elizabeth, who died unmarried in his life time, æt. fifteen. By his will he gave one moiety of all his estates, real and personal, without any specific allottment, to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Chart Sutton; and the other moiety, to Elizabeth viscountess dowager of Folkstone, and

William Bouverie, earl of Radnor, since deceased. They by private agreement made a partition of these estates, wherein were enumerated Teston house, with the park, gardens, and lands, belonging thereto, and the advowson of the church.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie was descended from Laurence de Bouverie, or des Bouveries, of an ancient extraction in Flanders, who renouncing the Romish religion, came into England in 1567. His grandson, Edward Desbouverie, was knighted in 1684, and died at his seat, at Chesunt, in Herts. in 1694, leaving by Anne, his wife, daughter and coheir of Jacob de la Forterie, several sons and daughters. William, the eldest, was created a baronet in 1713, being ancestor to the late earl of Radnor; and Christopher, the youngest son, was knighted, and of Chart Sutton in this county, who left by Elizabeth, his wife, two sons, Freeman, who departed this life in 1734, and John, who died on his travels in Asia; and two daughters, Anne, married to John Harvey, esq., and Elizabeth, devisee of the moiety of Sir Philip Boteler's estates. Of Sir Edward Desbouverie's daughters, Anne married Sir Philip Boteler, and was aunt to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, above mentioned, who bore for her arms, first, *Bouverie, party per fess or and argent, an imperial eagle, sable;* second, *Bouverie again, gules, a bend vaire;* quartered with Forterie, Frebody, Marsh, Laurence, and others.

This parish is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to Sts. Peter and Paul, is a small neat building, with a square tower at the west end, and contains several monuments of the family of the Boteler's.

Robert de Crevequer, on his foundation of the priory of Leeds, in 1119, gave to that institution all the churches of his estate, among which was that of Teston. However, the parsonage, together with the advowson of the vicarage, remained in the hands of the crown, and so continued till Henry VIII. settled it on his newly erected dean and chapter of Rochester, who became entitled to the same.

This vicarage was a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly value of £47; the yearly tenths being 13s.

In 1821 there were forty-eight dwellings in the parish of Teston; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of

inhabitants were as follow : males 127, females 132, making a total of 259 souls.

Southward from Teston, on the opposite side of the river Medway, lies the parish of West Farleigh, so called to distinguish it from that adjoining of East Farleigh.

It is called in Domesday Ferlaga, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, Fearnlega, having most probably derived its name from the passage over the river Medway at one or both of these parishes, *Fane*, in Saxon, signifying a journey or passage, and *lega*, a spot, that is, the place of the way or passage.

The borsholder of the borough of West Farleigh is chosen at the court-leet of that manor, and does not owe service to the court-leet of the hundred; nor do the inhabitants of that borough owe any service to that court, but a constable may be chosen for that hundred out of this borough.

Part of the parish of West Farleigh is held of the manor of Newington, near Sittingbourne, in free socage tenure, by certain freeholders, at different yearly rents.

This district is pleasantly situated on the southern side of the Medway, upon a hill declining towards the river, the northern boundary of which are the meadows, the banks abounding in large and spreading oaks, which contribute greatly to the grandeur and beauty of the scenery. The soil is much the same as that of the adjoining parish of East Farleigh, being equally fertile in corn, fruit, and hops.

The high road across the Medway, over Teston bridge, ascends the hill through the village, whereon is Smith's hall, a handsome well-built seat, and the vicarage, both of which command a fine view of the valley and river, Mereworth, and Teston house and park on the opposite acclivity. A little to the eastward is the small hamlet of Farleigh green, and at the lower edge of the hill, not far from the river, stands the church, and the court lodge, where there is a steep descent, consisting of grass and meadow lands, to the bank of the river, and the bridge across it to Barmjet.

On the opposite side of the village are the ruins of the mansion of Tutsham, which was pleasantly situated on a rise above the river, and encircled by stately oaks, its canals being plentifully supplied by a small swiftly running brook, called the

Ewell, in consequence of its rising near the manor of that name, in the eastern part of the parish, which here falls into the Medway. The house was pulled down many years back, when the improvements were made at Teston house, and the ruins left to form an object in the prospect, when viewed from that mansion.

The high road from the village of Farleigh continues down to Yalding, and thence to the Weald and Sussex. Another road from the village, the ground still continuing to rise, leads to Coxsheath, and the summit of the quarry hills above Burston, where the district of the Weald commences. In the south-east part of this parish there is much coppice wood.

This spot was once part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record. On the disgrace of that prelate, this manor appears to have been granted by the Conqueror to Robert, son of Hamon de Crevequer, whose descendant afterwards held it as a member of the manor of Chatham. He having taken part with the rebellious barons against the king, this manor was seized, with his other estates, and remained vested in the crown till Edward I. gave it to his queen Eleanor, who presented it, with other premises, to the priory of Christ church, in Canterbury, in exchange for the port of Sandwich.

King Edward II., in his 10th year, granted to the prior of the above monastery, *free warren* in all their demesne lands, which he possessed here in the time of his grandfather, or at any time posterior.

This manor continued part of the possessions of the priory of Christ church, till the dissolution under Henry VIII., when, devolving to that king, he granted it, among other premises, to Sir Thomas Wyatt, to hold *in capite;* but his son, of the same name, having rebelled against Queen Mary, was attainted, and his estates forfeited to the crown ; upon which, that princess, in her 2d year, granted this manor to Sir John Baker, bart., of Sissinghurst. He alienated the property soon after the death of Charles I. to Mr. Robert Newton, grocer, of London, who conveyed it to Augustine Hodges, gent., and he, in the reign of Charles II., sold it to John Amhurst, esq., of East Farleigh court lodge. The latter owner, by will, in 1711, devised it to his brother, Nicholas Amhurst, gent., of West Barming, and his

grandson, Stephen Amhurst, esq., subsequently resided at this manor.

Smith's hall is a seat in this parish, to which the Brewer's, a family which had resided at Brewer's place, in Mereworth, for many generations, removed in the reign of Henry VI., and afterwards branched off to Boxley and Ditton, both in this neighbourhood. They bore for their arms, *Gules, three bends wavy, or, a canton vaire, argent and azure.*

Of this family was William de Brewer, lieutenant of Dover castle, under King John, as appears by the special *præcipe* directed to him from the above monarch, to deliver this fortress, then of so much importance, to Hubert de Burgh, lord warden of the Cinque Ports.

This seat continued in the same family until Thomas Brewer, esq. died possessed of it in 1690, whose second wife, Anne, was daughter of Richard Kilburne, esq. of Hawkhurst, the Kentish topographer, by whom he had several children. His eldest son, John Brewer, esq. of Smith's hall, died in 1724, leaving an only daughter and heir Jane, who was twice married, first to John Carney, esq., and secondly to John Shrimpton, esq., both of whom she survived, and resided here in her own right. She died in 1762, devising this seat, with other estates, to her kinsman, John Davis, D.D., rector of Hamsey, in Sussex, and he died possessed of the property in 1766. He left issue one son, and three daughters, of whom Elizabeth, the eldest, married Henry Pratt, esq., of Harbledown; John Davis, esq., the son, was afterwards knighted, and married the daughter of Dr. Tattersal, rector of Streatham, in Surrey, who sold this seat in 1774 to William Perrin, esq., when that gentleman resided at Smith's hall, where he was sheriff for this county in 1776, having borne for his arms, *Gules, three crescents, argent.*

The Manor of Totesham Hall, generally called *Tutsham*, in this parish, was anciently the residence of a family which assumed its surname from this property.

John de Totesham was one of the *recognitores Magnæ Assisæ*, or judges of assize, in the reign of King John, and bore for his arms, *Gules, within a bordure, a cross argent between twelve billets of the last,* as appears by a seal appendant to a deed in the Dering library.

From him this manor and estate descended in a direct line to

Anthony Totesham, esq., who, about the latter end of the reign of Henry VIII., alienated Totesham, with an appendage called Henhurst, to Thomas Chapman, gent., one of the grooms of the king's chamber, in whose name they remained till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when they were sold to John Lawrence, esq. captain of Tilbury fort. He left a son and heir, who succeeded to Totesham hall, and died in 1605, when his heirs joined in the sale of this manor to Augustine Skynner, esq. of Devonshire, who removed into Kent, and resided at Totesham hall.

His heir dying in 1672, without issue, his heirs alienated this manor, with that of Ewell, in this parish, to Edward Goulston, esq., who afterwards resided at Totesham. He died in 1720, having by will given these estates, after the death of his wife, to her nephew, Francis Goulston, esq. of Widdial, in Herts.

James Goulston, his eldest son, was of Widdial, and father of Richard, and Anne the wife of Edward Goulston, of Totesham, before mentioned, who resided at this manor after the death of her husband, and dying in 1724, the property of these manors and estates became vested in Francis Goulston, esq. of Widdial, before mentioned. He, on his marriage in 1722, had settled the reversion of them on Sarah, his intended wife, and their issue in tail male; with a power of revocation on his settling other estates of as great value in lieu of the same.

After the above period, in the 13th of King George I., A.D. 1726, having contracted for the sale of these estates with Sir Philip Boteler, bart., and the expressions in the above settlement being doubtful and ambiguous, an Act of Parliament was procured to enforce the same, and the fee was in consequence conveyed to Sir Philip Boteler, bart. He died in 1772, having divided these estates in the same manner he had disposed of all his other property in this county; upon which partition this manor became the property of Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Teston hall.

West Farleigh is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, which stands near the court lodge, consists of one aisle, having a low pointed steeple, and is dedicated to All Saints. The edifice contains monuments for the Brewer's, the Skynner's, and the Goulston's; and in the south wall, is an ancient tomb fixed in a recess, having an arch over it, engrailed, and at either

corner a coat of arms; that towards the east being obliterated, but the shield westward displaying *a cross within a bordure, engrailed.*

This vicarage is valued in the king's books at £6 10 5; the yearly tenths being 13s. 0½d.

In 1821 there were fifty-eight dwellings in the parish of West Farleigh; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 184, females 180, making a total of 364 souls.

Southward from West Farleigh lies the parish of Hunton, more frequently called in ancient deeds *Huntington.*

A small part of this parish being of the ancient demesne of Aylesford, is in the hundred of Larkfield, another portion within that of Maidstone, and the residue, which is in the borough of Hunton, lies in the hundred of Twyford, which borough claims a court-leet of itself, where the borsholder is chosen, the inhabitants owing no service to the court-leet of the hundred, but a constable may be chosen at that court for the hundred out of this borough.

Hunton lies on the side of the quarry hills, the summit of which constitutes the northern boundary of this parish, as also of the Weald, and, lying below it, is consequently within that district.

The soil about the hill partakes of the quarry or rag stone, thinly covered with a loam or red earth, below which it changes to a stiff clay. Upon the hill, adjoining to Coxheath, there is a range of coppice wood; below which, midway down the hill, is the seat of Burston, commanding a fine view southward over the Weald. The right wing is built of brick, ornamented with stone, and appears to be of the period of Queen Elizabeth; the remainder is much more modern; but the whole, in Mr. Hasted's time, was rapidly hastening to ruin. There was, in the reign of James I., a park round this seat, which has long been demolished and converted into a farm. At a little distance eastward, is the parsonage, a good house, much improved by the late bishop of London, who made it his summer residence whilst rector of this parish. Near the parsonage, is a seat called *Gennings*, formerly the property of one Snatt, and he sold it to Sir Walter

Roberts, bart. of Glassenbury, who rebuilt the house. Upon his death, in 1745, his only daughter and heir, Jane, carried this seat in marriage to George duke of St. Alban's; and she dying in 1778, disposed of it by her will to Miss Davies, who, after the duke's death, possessed it, when she alienated the same to the Lady Dowager Twysden. At a small distance lower down, is the church, and still farther eastward, the village called Hunton Street, close to the principal stream of the river Medway, which directs its current along the southern boundary of this parish, being increased in its course by several springs that unite with the main river at the adjoining parish of Yalding. The soil is of a deep clay, which, in wet weather, is extremely miry, and, in dry seasons, so hard as to resist every impression, it therefore becomes necessary to seize the opportunity of tilling the land while in an intermediate state, when it produces very fine wheat, if manured with marl or chalk, which is conveyed from the farther ridge of hills, nine or ten miles distant. The whole abounds with broad hedge-rows, and in the banks are numerous fine spreading oaks, which, though very profitable to the owner, are exceedingly prejudicial to the occupant and his crops of corn. Considered in a picturesque point of view, this country is beautiful; but to the traveller and resident, it is, in wet weather, almost impassable, and in the drought of summer, the heat arising from the soil, the reflection of the sunbeams, and the quantity of large buzzing flies which assail the passenger from their haunts among the oak branches, render it disagreeable and unpleasant in the extreme. In 1683, there was found, at the opening of a piece of ground, near Mr. Hatley's house, in this parish, six yards beneath the surface, a hard floor or *stratum*, composed of shells or petrifactions, crowded closely together, the interstices being filled up with marl. This layer was about one inch deep, and several yards over. The shells were of that species called *conchites*, and resembled sea-fish of the testaceous kind; most of them were turbinated or writhed, and the rest of the bivalvular order; none having their valves closed, but single.

This *stratum*, when exposed to the air, having become hard, appeared much like the coarse sort of marble dug up about Bethersden, Pluckley, and in the Weald of Kent, as well as at Petworth, in Sussex. Upon inquiry, however, we do not find

an instance recorded of the river Medway having, in any flood, attained so far as the above spot.

The manor of Huntington, otherwise *Hunton*, was part of the ancient possessions of Christ church, in Canterbury, and, soon after the time of the Conqueror, held of the archbishop of Canterbury by knight's service, by a family of the name of Lenham, the members of which were afterwards proprietors of another manor in this parish, called Benstede.

This last-mentioned manor was, at the survey of Domesday, part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in that record. Upon the disgrace of that prelate, it was granted to one of the family of the Crevequer's ; and of that family it was held by proprietors who, in all likelihood, assumed their surname from this property.

John de Benstede held the manor as one fourth part of a knight's fee, in the reign of Henry III., of the barony of Crevequer, at the latter end of which reign he alienated it to Nicholas de Lenham, who at that time held likewise the manor of Hunton ; for which, in the 41st year of the above reign, he obtained a charter of *free warren*, a weekly market, and an annual fair. In the above year, a fine was levied between Nicholas prior of Christ church, and Nicholas de Lenham, of an annual rental of £6, of this manor of Huntington.

His descendant, William de Lenham, left an only daughter and heir, Alianer, who carried both these manors in marriage to John de Gyfford, and he paid aid for the same in the 20th of Edward III., and died possessed of them in the 22d year of the same monarch. Soon after that period, they were by his heirs sold to William, second son of John de Clinton, who was knighted, being a man of great worth and integrity. He married Juliana, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas de Leybourne, and, standing high in favor of the king, was advanced to the title of earl of Huntingdon. He died in the reign of Edward III. possessed of this manor of Huntington, or Hunton, with Bensted. John Lord Clinton was found to be his next heir, who paid relief in the 4th of Henry IV., at the marriage of Blanch, daughter of that prince ; and in the 6th year of the same reign, had possession granted of his part of the lands of William de Say, as heir to him by his grandmother, Idonea, upon which he

bore the title of lord Clinton and Say, and was summoned to Parliament. His son, John lord Clinton, in the 27th of Henry VI., released to his kinsman, Sir James Fienes, then lord Say and Seal, and his heirs, the title of lord Say, whereto he claimed a right, as well as to the arms accompanying that title.

In his descendants this manor and estate continued down to Edward lord Clinton, who, in the reign of Henry VIII., alienated them to Sir Thomas Wyatt; but his son, of the same name, being attainted for treason against Queen Mary, all his estates became forfeited to the crown, when that princess granted this manor, with Bensted, to Sir John Baker, her attorney general, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service. In his descendants they continued down to Sir John Baker, bart. of Sissinghurst, who possessed them in the reign of Charles II.; by whom they were alienated to Mr. Clark, of Boughton, who bequeathed the manor of Hunton to Mr. Thomas Turner, of this parish. He devised the property to his nephew, Mr. Thomas Turner, of Hunton, who died possessed of the same in 1776, leaving by his wife one son and four daughters, when Thomas Turner, the son above mentioned, succeeded to this manor and estate, where he resided. A court-baron is held for this manor.

However, Bensted or Benstedde, the site of which consists only of a parcel of land, with a ruined mansion thereon, passed by sale from one Clark to a Bartholomew; in which name it descended down to Leonard Bartholomew, esq. of Oxenhoath, who died in 1757; since which, by his will, it became the property of Sir William Geary, bart., who held, in addition, a considerable estate in this parish.

At the south side of the chancel of this church was once a tomb for one of the noble family of the Clinton's, possessors of this manor, whose seat, called the *court lodge*, near the church, has been long in ruins; but the site, as well as the moat that surrounded it, are still visible.

Burston is a manor in this parish, the name of which, Kilburne says, was anciently *Buston*, otherwise *Burnicestune*, or *Burnegicestune*, having been once eminent as the residence of a family which derived its surname of Burston from this property.

John de Burston is mentioned in dateless deeds relative to

this family, but which are conjectured to be of the period of Henry III., at which time there was land about Wye and Crundall, in this county, which belonged to that family, for, in the 45th year of the above reign, Sir Waretius de Valoigns released to John de Burston his title to lands in those parishes. In his descendants Burston remained for many generations, and it appears that they were esteemed among the ancient gentry of this county, as Gervas Clifton, sheriff of Kent in the reign of Henry VI., returned the name of William Burston, as being then possessed of this manor, among those who had a right to assume the ancient heraldic bearings of their ancestors, which were *quarterly, argent and sable, on a bend, gules, three griffins' heads, erased or.*

In the reign of Henry VIII. Alderman Head, of London, resided here, and made additions to the house; but he seems to have possessed it only for a term of years, as the fee continued in the name of Burston, by one of whom it was alienated, in the reign of Elizabeth, to Sir Thomas Fane, second son of George Fane, esq. of Badsell, in Tudeley, who was afterwards of Burston, and lieutenant of Dover castle. He died without issue in 1606.

By his will he gave this manor and seat to Sir George Fane, second son of Sir Thomas Fane, of Badsell, by his wife, Baroness le Despencer, who, after the death of his uncle, resided at Burston. In the 18th of James I., he was chosen member of Parliament for the county, and in the 21st year of the same reign, kept his shrievalty at Burston. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Thomas Fane, a colonel in the army, who died unmarried, at this seat, in 1692, and was buried, with his ancestors, in the church, having by will devised this manor and seat, among the rest of his estates, to Mildmay Fane, seventh and youngest son of Vere Fane, earl of Westmoreland, then only two years of age, intending by such bequest that this manor and the title should never be possessed by the same person. He afterwards resided at Mereworth castle, and died unmarried in 1715, when he was succeeded in this manor and estate by Thomas earl of Westmoreland, his eldest surviving brother, who dying, as well as his younger and only surviving brother, John earl of Westmoreland, who departed this life in 1762, the manor and seat,

together with the rest of his estates in this county, passed, by the limitations of his will, in like manner as Mereworth, to the Right Hon. Thomas lord le Despencer.

HUNTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, contains monuments and memorials for the families of the Fane's and Burston's, as well as a memento for a member of the house of Clinton. In the time of Philipott there also remained, in one of the windows, the effigies of two of the Lords Clinton, owners of this manor.

It is a rectory, and was valued in the king's books at £16 13 1½, the yearly tenths being £1 13 3½.

His grace the archbishop of Canterbury, claims the *patronage* of this church.

In 1821 there were 116 dwellings in the parish of Hunton; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 339, females 344, making a total of 683 souls.

YALDING lies northwestward from Hunton, and was anciently written Ealding, which signifies the old meadow, or low ground.

Most of this parish is in the hundred of Twyford, and the residue, viz. the borough of Rugmerhill, in the ancient demesne of Aylesford. That portion of this parish which holds of the manor of West Farleigh, is within that borough, and the borsholder ought to be chosen at the court-leet of the same. That part held of the manor of Hunton, is in the borough of that name, the borsholder whereof is chosen at the court-leet of the same, but the inhabitants of neither of these boroughs owe service to the court held for the hundred of Twyford, within which they both lie; but at that court a constable for the hundred may be chosen out of either of these boroughs.

This parish lying southward of the quarry hills, is within the district of the Weald. It is narrow, but extends full four miles in length from north to south, the higher or northern part reaching up to the quarry hill adjoining West Farleigh, near which is Yalding down, whereon stands a large kiln for the purpose of burning pit-coal into coke, the same being effected

by laying the coal beneath the earth, and when set on fire, quenching the cinders, a method adopted in making charcoal from wood, the former being particularly used in the oasts, for the drying of hops, so profitably encouraged in this neighbourhood. Below, near the river Medway, opposite to Nettlested, stands the seat of Sir John Gregory Shaw, bart., a retired, but not unpleasant situation, having been for several generations the residence of the family of the Kinward's, which, from the reign of Henry VIII. was possessed of good estates in this parish, and bore for arms, *Azure, on a bend, or, three roses gules, between three cross crosslets, fitchee argent.* Robert Kenward, esq., of Yalding, resided here, and dying in 1720, was buried with the rest of his family in this church. He left a son, John, and several daughters, the former of whom died in 1749, leaving one daughter and heir Alicia, who carried this seat in marriage to Sir John Shaw, bart., late of Eltham, whose eldest son, Sir John Gregory Shaw, bart., became owner, and resided here. In this part of the parish the land is good, both for corn and hops, of which there are several plantations, and round the down some rich grass lands; but farther southward, towards Brenchley, Horsemonden, and Marden, the country is rather dreary, the land lying very low, the soil being wet and miry, and subject to the growth of rushes; the hedge-rows are broad, and interspersed with large spreading oaks.

The river Medway flows from Tunbridge along the west side of the upper part of this parish, and across it, at this point, are two bridges, namely, those of Twyford and Brandt, leading hither from Watringbury, Nettlested, and East Peckham. A small stream, which flows from Marden here, called the Twist, passes through the lower part of this parish, towards the west side, and joins the main river at Twyford bridge, which extends over both streams, another larger current, being a principal head of the Medway, flowing from Style bridge by Hunton Clappers, separates these two parishes, and joins the main river about a quarter of a mile below Twyford bridge. On the conflux of these two larger streams Yalding is situated, having a long narrow stone bridge of communication from one part of the town to the other, on the opposite bank of the Hunton stream. Leland, who lived in the reign of Henry VIII., calls it *a praty townelet*, to which, however, at present, it has no pretensions.

The church and court lodge stand at the north end of this place.

The high road, over Teston bridge and by West Farleigh, leads through this town, and thence southward along the hamlets of Denover, and Collens' street, to Marden. At a small distance from the former is the borough of Rugmerhill, esteemed to be within the ancient demesne of Aylesford, belonging to Mrs. Milner.

Adjoining the town of Yalding, southward, is Yalding lees, over which passes another high road, leading from Twyford bridge parallel with that before mentioned, along the hamlet of Lodingford, and thence through the lower part of this parish, towards Brenchley. Near the boundaries of the same, in this parish, is an estate still called *Oldlands*, which appears, in the reign of Edward II. to have been part of the demesne lands of the manor of Yalding, as that prince confirmed to the priory of Tunbridge, a rent charge to be received out of the assets of the *old and new lands* of the late Richard de Clare, in Dennemannesbrooke, which he had given to that priory on its foundation. Lower down, close to the stream of the Twist, is the manor house of Bockingfold, the lands of which extend across the river into Brenchley, Horsemonden, and other parishes.

A third high road, over Brandt bridge, passes along the western bounds of this parish, over Betsurn green, towards Lamberhurst and Sussex.

The commissioners for the navigation of the river Medway, many years ago, made a navigable cut, or canal, from a place in the river called Hampsted, where they judiciously constructed a lock in the river, near Twyford bridge, and erected a tumbling bay for the water, when at a certain height, to pass over. This proved of the greatest utility to the navigation, as it not only shortened the passage, but bayed up a convenient depth of water, which could not be had along the lees and other adjoining lowlands, without a very great expenditure.

The barges are here loaded with timber, great guns, and bullets, for Chatham and Sheerness dockyards, as well as London, and other parts, and convey back coals and other commodities, for the supply of the neighbouring country. In 1757 a large eel was caught in this river, measuring five feet, nine

inches, in length, and eighteen, in circumference, the weight being upwards of forty pounds.

The Manor of Yalding, or *Ealding*, as it was usually written, was, after the Conquest, part of the possessions of the eminent family of the Clare's, who became afterwards earls of Gloucester and Hertford. Their ancestor, Richard Fitz-Gilbert, came into England with William the Conqueror, and, from his near affinity to that monarch, as well as his services, had large possessions granted him, among which was this estate of Yalding, as appears from the survey of Domesday, under the general title of whose lands it was therein entered.

Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester and Hertford, his son, by Joan of Acres, daughter of King Edward I., succeeded him, and dying without issue, his three sisters became his coheirs, when this manor was allotted to Margaret, wife of Hugh de Audley, who left an only daughter and heir, Margaret, and she carried this estate in marriage to Ralph Stafford, afterwards created earl of Stafford.

It continued in his descendants down to Humphrey Stafford, created duke of Buckingham, under Henry VI., whose grandson, Henry, duke of Buckingham, having rebelled against Richard III., in favor of Henry earl of Richmond, and being betrayed by one Ralph Banister, in whose house he had sought refuge, was, without arraignment or judgment, beheaded at Salisbury. This fact we have previously adverted to, but found it necessary again to introduce it, as the manor of Yalding was a part of the reward bestowed upon the villain who had thus betrayed his benefactor. Ralph Banister held this manor by knight's service; till, on the accession of Richmond to the throne, the property was restored to Edward duke of Buckingham, eldest son and heir of the above-mentioned duke; who, in the 13th of Henry VIII., was also beheaded, upon a charge of treason. This estate thus became forfeited to the crown, when the king granted it, the same year, to Charles Somerset, earl of Worcester, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service. He was natural son of Henry duke of Somerset; and, being a man of great talent and abilities, was much in favor with kings Henry VII. and VIII., and by his marriage with Elizabeth, sole daughter and heir of William Herbert, earl of Huntingdon, bore the title

of Lord Herbert, of Cherbury. He was first constituted a knight banneret, then knight of the Garter, and afterwards captain of the king's guard, a privy counsellor, and lord chamberlain, which office he retained after the accession of Henry VIII., who also conferred upon him several important trusts, and, in consequence of his noble descent and near alliance to the king in blood, made him earl of Worcester. He bore for his arms, *France and England, quarterly a bordure gobony, argent and azure, with a battoon, sinister argent;* his solemn creation having been performed at the Archbishop's palace, at Lambeth, on the same day. He alienated this manor to George Nevill, lord Bergavenny, whose son, Henry, dying without issue male, this manor, among other estates passed to Edward Nevill, a younger brother of George lord Bergavenny, before mentioned, and his eldest son, Edward lord Bergavenny, alienated the same to one Isaac, who again passed it away by sale, to the Freer's, of Westmington, in Sussex. From the latter name it went by sale, about the year 1870, to Thomas Brewer, esq., at Smith's hall, in West Farleigh, in whose descendants it continued till John Brewer, esq., leaving an only daughter and heir, Jane, she carried it in marriage to John Carney, esq.; and secondly, to John Shrimpton, esq.; both of whom she survived, and died in 1762, without issue. She devised this manor, among the rest of her estates, to her kinsman, the Rev. Dr. John Davies, prebendary of Canterbury, whose son, John, in 1774, alienated the property to Philip Perrin, esq. of Smith's hall, who immediately after exchanged it, for some other lands lying near his house, with Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Teston, who became, in consequence, possessed of this estate.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

Woodfolde is a manor in this parish, which lies about half a mile southeastward from Brandt bridge, and was held, in the reign of Edward II., by Anceline Quyntin, and the heirs of Daniel de Lodneford, who held it of George Cham, as he did of the earl of Gloucester. In the 20th of Edward III., Robert Reickyn, by his wife, sister of John de Lodneford, paid respective aid for this estate. One of his descendants alienated it to the Burton's; in which family it continued till the reign of Henry VIII., when the heirs of Robert Burton passed it by sale to that branch of the family of the Fane's seated at Burston,

in the adjoining parish of Hunton. It continued in that line, in like manner as Burston, down to John Fane, earl of Westmoreland, who died in 1762, and devolved with that manor, as well as Mereworth, by the limitations in his will, to the Right Hon. Lord le Despencer.

The manor of Lodingford, or Bermondesey, lies about half a mile eastward from Woodfolde manor, and acquired the latter name from a family the members whereof were proprietors of the same. In the reign of Edward II., Hugh de Bermondesey was the possessor, and his heirs paid aid for it as the tenth part of a knight's fee, which he had before held in Yalding of the earl of Gloucester. How this manor passed afterwards, till it came into the family of the Wood's, we have not discovered, but William Wood was owner of the property at the latter end of the reign of Henry VIII. His descendant, Thomas, alienated it to the Fane's; from which name it passed into that of the Austin's, where it continued, till Mrs. Austin, of London, devised it, by her last will, to Mary, daughter of Mr. Piggott, of Cambridge, who marrying the Rev. William Foster, D.D., he in her right became possessed of this estate.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

Jenning's court is a manor which lies in the parishes of Yalding, Nettlested, and West Barming, being held of the manor of Pipping heath, though it seems, under Edward III., to have been held by John de Huntingdon. How long it continued in that name we do not find, but, in the 10th of Henry VI., Thomas Knot, of Yalding, died possessed of it by the name of part of the manor of West Barming or Pimpe, in the parish of Yalding. He alienated the estate to Thomas Atte Wood, whose descendant, John, died in the 3d of Henry VIII. possessed of the property, then called Gennyngs or West Barming, in this parish, being held *in capite*; after which, it appears to have been given, by the name of the manor of *Jenning's court*, to Brazen Nose college, in Oxford, part of the possessions of which institution it has continued to the present period.

In 1687 this manor was held by lease from the above-mentioned college by Allmott Peers, who soon afterwards alienated his interest therein to John Kenward, esq. of this parish, who died possessed of it in 1708. His grandson, John Kenward, esq., dying without male issue in 1749, his daughter, Martha,

carried her interest in the lease of this manor in marriage to Sir John Shaw, bart. of Eltham, whose grandson, Sir John Gregory Shaw, bart., was afterwards lessee.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

Bokingfold is a manor of large extent, whereof the only house is situated within the southern bounds of this parish, though the demesnes extended into those of Brenchley, Horsemonden, Marden, and Goudhurst. This mansion is continually mentioned in records and ancient deeds as being within the former of those parishes, the bounds of which must therefore have undergone a change, or the present house on this manor could not be that anciently esteemed the dwelling. There was *a free chapel* belonging thereto, and a park and forest adjoining, of no small extent.

In the reign of Henry III. the manor was in possession of the family of the Crevequer's, of which line Hamo de Crevequer died possessed of it in the 47th year of that reign; at which period it was a member of the manor of Chatham, held of the king by barony. Robert, his grandson, siding with the rebellious barons, this manor was seized by the king, when it remained with the crown till the reign of Edward II., who, in his 2d year, granted it, together with the free chapel, in fee, to Bartholomew de Badlesmere, at the annual rental of £25, at his Exchequer.

On a *quo warranto*, in the 21st of Edward I., this manor being then vested in the crown, it was found that the collection belonged to the king, and was worth about ten marks per annum, and that John de Capgrave possessed the same of the collation of the prior of Leeds, who alleged that he held the advowson by the gift of Hamo de Crevequer, and that although Queen Alianor had presented it in right of her manor of Leeds, nevertheless, after her death, it had been determined, with the king's consent, that it should be restored to the prior, which was testified by John de Berewick. Notwithstanding this, the king granted away the advowson to Bartholomew de Badlesmere, as above mentioned; who, upon an exchange made between that prince and himself, six years afterwards, had another grant made to him in fee, of this manor and chapel, to hold in *socage*, by the service of paying *one pair of clove gillyflowers*, by the hands of the sheriff; and the next year he obtained many liberties and

privileges for his estates, and among others, *free warren* for his demesne lands of this manor. The above-mentioned Bartholomew de Badlesmere afterwards leaguing with the discontented barons, was defeated and executed, when this manor, with his other estates, was confiscated to the crown.

While it continued in the hands of the king, that monarch visited the estate, and during his stay, Hamo de Hethe, bishop of Rochester, the king's confessor, sent him a present of wine and grapes from his vineyard at Halling, near Rochester. Previous to the monarch's departure, finding that many persons had unlawfully hunted in his park of Bokingfold, the king commanded that they should be indicted for the trespasses and irregularities committed therein. The large extent and wild appearance of this district, covered with thick woods, gained it the name of a *forest*, by which appellation, Twine, in his Treatise, *De Rebus Albionicis*, mentions the same, calling it *the forest of Buckenwald*, near Tunbridge.

After the above period, the king granted it, with the advowson of the chapel, to Thomas de Camvill, by the above-mentioned service; and he dying in the 4th of Edward III., that prince confirmed it to Giles de Badlesmere, son of Bartholomew above mentioned, as his inheritance. He died in the 12th year of the same reign, leaving his four sisters his coheirs, and upon a partition of their inheritance, this manor, with fifty acres of wood belonging thereto, were assigned to Maud, the eldest sister, wife of John de Vere, earl of Oxford; and another fifty acres, to Margaret, the youngest sister, wife of John de Tibetot.

Robert de Vere, earl of Oxford, was the great favorite of Richard II., who created him duke of Ireland, and conceived no accumulation of wealth and honours sufficient to testify his unbounded affection. That prodigality, however, made him so haughty and insolent, that he was at length accused of high treason, and banished, when all his possessions were confiscated, except his entailed lands, which were adjudged to remain to his heirs. Notwithstanding this, the duke never possessed the manor, which, at the above period, remained in the hands of Maud, widow of his father, Thomas earl of Oxford, as part of her dower, and the inheritance was probably part of those estates of the duke confiscated, as before mentioned, as, soon afterwards, this manor appears to have been granted to Thomas

duke of Gloucester, the king's uncle, who, in the 17th year of that reign, settled it, being then held *in capite*, on his new founded college, at Plecy, in Essex.

On the death of the countess of Oxford, in the 14th of Henry IV., the master and priests of the above college took possession of this manor, when it continued so vested till the dissolution of religious houses, under Henry VIII., by which monarch it was granted to John Gate, gentleman of the king's privy chamber, to hold *in capite*. He was knighted in the following reign, but after the death of King Edward VI., being concerned in advancing Lady Jane Grey to the crown, he was found guilty of high treason, and beheaded in the 1st of Queen Mary, who the same year granted the manor of Bokingfold to Susan Tong, to hold *in capite*. She, in the 3d year of the same reign, alienated it to Thomas Colepeper, esq. of Bedgbury, who was sheriff in the 3d of Edward VI.; and his eldest son, Alexander Colepeper, in the 6th of Elizabeth, alienated *that part of the manor* which lay in Goudhurst, to one Sharpleigh, and *the other portion*, lying in Marden, Yalding, Brenchley, and Horsemonden, to Roger Revell; however, it must be observed, that the *free chapel of Bokingfold*, after the attainder of Sir John Gates, remained in the crown, and so continued till Queen Elizabeth granted it to Richard Tilden, of Brenchley.

That part of the manor of Bokingfold, lying in this parish, Brenchley, and Horsemonden, in the possession of Roger Revell, was, by a fine then levied, conveyed to Benedict Barnham, of London, who died in 1598, leaving four daughters his coheirs; when Bridget, the youngest, carried this estate in marriage, as her portion of the inheritance, to Sir William Soame. He sold it, in the reign of Charles I., to Mr. George Browne, of Buckland, in Surrey, who, in 1693, passed it away to Mr. William Woodgate, of Chidingstone; and his great grandson, William Woodgate, esq. of Somerhill, in Tunbridge, afterwards possessed the same.

THE COURT LODGE of the manor of Yalding, and all the demesne lands belonging thereto, have been long separated from the manor itself, and many years held by the family of the Plumer's, William Plumer, esq., M.P. for the county of Herts., having ultimately possessed the same.

HENHURST is an estate in this parish, formerly held by a

family of that name. In the reign of Edward II., Gilbert de Henhurst possessed half a knight's fee in Henhurst, of the earl of Gloucester, for which, in the 20th of Edward III., Richard Totesham, Henry Gervas, and John de Sandherst, paid respective aid. This estate continued in the name of Totesham till the reign of Henry VIII., when Anthony Totesham, esq. of Totesham hall, in West Farleigh, alienated it to Thomas Chapman; from which name it passed to the Laurence's, and thence to Augustine Skinner, esq.; one of whose descendants conveyed it to the Goulston's. Francis Goulston, about the year 1726, sold it, with Totesham hall, to Sir Philip Boteler, of Teston, who died possessed of it in 1772, without issue, and by will gave it to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Chart Sutton, Elizabeth viscountess Folkstone, and William Bouverie earl of Radnor, since deceased, when, on a partition of these estates, Yalding became the property of Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Teston.

ANOTHER ESTATE in this parish, called *Kenward's farm*, was formerly in the possession of the Twisden's, down to Sir Thomas Twisden, bart. of Bradbourn, in the reign of George I., who conveyed it to Sir Philip Boteler, when it passed in the same manner as his other estates down to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Teston.

There is a district in this parish, called *Trendhurst Denn*, which is within the manor of Gillingham, near Rochester.

YALDING is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and *deanery* of Malling. The church, a spacious handsome building, consists of three aisles and large chancel, with a square tower at the west end. Upon the south wall is a very ancient altar tomb, much defaced, whereon still remains *Ermine, a bend, gules*, there having been formerly a brass plate thereon. Upon a large stone in the centre aisle is a memorial for Robert Penhurst, descended from Sir Robert Penhurst, of Penhurst, in Sussex, who died in 1610; the arms presenting on a shield *a mullet*. In the chancel is a handsome monument for the family of the Warde's, who bore for their arms, *Azure, a cross flory, or*; and another for the Kenward's, in this parish. In the pavement of this church are several large broad stones, being a species of petrifaction of the testaceous kind, dug up in the moors or low lands of this parish.

The rectory now pays a yearly feefarm rent of £30 to the crown. It was valued in the king's books at £20 18 9; the yearly tenths being £2 1 10½.

There are *two separate manors* in this district, one belonging to the rectory or parsonage, and the other to the vicarage of the church.

In 1821, there were 354 dwellings in the parish of Yalding; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 1233, females 1181, making a total of 2414 souls.

THE HUNDRED OF LITTLEFIELD.

SOUTHWARD from WROTHAM hundred lies the hundred of Littlefield, called in Domesday *Litlefelle,* and in some records, *Leighfield.*

This hundred derives its name from the smallness of its extent, as it only contains within its bounds the parish of Mereworth and part of that of West Peckham, with the churches of those parishes, and a portion of the parishes of Hadlow and East Peckham, the churches of which latter are in another hundred.

THIS DISTRICT, in the beginning of the reign of Edward II. was in the possession of the crown, where it remained till that king, in his 15th year, granted it, by consent of Parliament, among other estates of greater value, to Edmund, of Woodstock, his half brother, whom he at the same time constituted earl of Kent. After the death of his two sons, Joan, their sister, became the heir, when her husband, Sir Thomas Holand, possessed this hundred in her right, and also the title of earl of Kent. After his demise, she espoused Edward the Black Prince, and was succeeded in this possession by Thomas Holand, earl of Kent, her son by her first husband, whose eldest son, Thomas Holand, was afterwards created duke of Surrey, and continuing loyal to the cause of King Richard II. lost his life in a tumult at Cirencester, in the 1st of Henry IV., and was, the following year, attainted in Parliament. He died without issue, and his brother, Edmund earl of Kent, before the end of that year, obtained, by virtue of an old entail, this hundred, among other estates of which his brother had died possessed, and leaving no issue, his four sisters became his coheirs. On the partition of his property, this hundred was then allotted to Joan, his fourth sister, duchess of York, who appears, by the escheat rolls, to have died without issue, in the 12th of Henry VI.

Upon a division of her inheritance among her sisters; Margaret, first wife of John earl of Somerset, and afterwards of Thomas duke of Clarence, became entitled to this property,

who died in the 18th year of the above reign, leaving John earl of Somerset, her son by her first husband, her next heir.

How the hundred of Littlefield afterwards passed we have not found, but in the reign of Henry VIII. it was part of the possessions of the crown, where it remained till Edward VI., in the 4th year of his reign, granted it in fee to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, who was, the following year, created duke of Northumberland; and he, in the 7th year of that reign, sold it to the king, in exchange for other manors and lands.

This hundred seems to have remained vested in the crown till the 23d of Elizabeth, who then granted the hundreds of Littlefield or Leighfield and Wachelston, otherwise Chadlington, to Sir William Brooke, lord Cobham, whose son, Henry lord Cobham, in the 1st of James I., being accused, with others, of a conspiracy to assassinate the king and subvert the government, was found guilty, and had judgment of death pronounced against him. The sentence was afterwards, through the clemency of that monarch, superseded; however, on his attainder, this, among the rest of his estates, became forfeited to the crown, and was confirmed thereto by the Act passed in the 3d of James I. for that purpose; since which, this hundred has continued among the royal possessions, and so remains.

West, otherwise Little Peckham, is a parish lying eastward from Shipborne, called in Domesday Pecheham, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, Pecham.

This district receives the appellation of *West Peckham* from its situation westward of Great or East Peckham, and of Little, from its smallness in regard to that parish.

The quarry-stone hills bound the northern side of this parish, consequently, the whole is within the district of the Weald. The soil is in general a stiff clay, while in the lower or southern part it presents very rich pasture grazing land. The northern portion, adjoining the hill, is covered by those woods commonly called *the Herst woods*, whence flow several fine springs of water, extending over the eastern parts of this parish; near the boundary of which, and approaching Mereworth, is the village, with the church. The northern side of this parish is watered by the stream which runs hither from Plaxtool, and thence into the Medway, at Brandt bridge, a little above Yaldham.

The seat of Hampton's, now almost in ruins, stands near the east side of this stream, in a wild gloomy situation; and at a small distance, that of Oxenhoath, an ancient brick building, situated on a rising ground, commanding an extensive prospect over the Weald and the hills to the north-east, the surrounding lands being luxuriantly wooded, and presenting very fine pasturage.

There is an annual fair held here, on the 16th of June.

This parish, with others in the neighbourhood, was anciently bound to contribute to the repairs of the fifth pier of Rochester bridge.

Little Peckham, before the Conquest, was in the possession of Earl Leofwine, who, as well as his brother, King Harold, was killed at the fatal battle of Hastings. The Conqueror subsequently gave this estate to Odo bishop of Bayeux, on whose disgrace, four years after, the property, among the rest of his estates, became confiscated to the crown.

In the reign of King John, the manor of West Peckham, then valued at £15, was held in sergeantry by a family of the name of Bendeville, by the service of bearing one of the king's gos-hawks beyond sea, from the feast of St. Michael to that of the Purification, when the king demanded it in lieu of all other services; soon after which, it fell into the possession of a family which thence assumed its surname.

John de Peckham held it in the reign of Henry III., and his descendant, John, died possessed of it in the 21st of Edward I. holding it *in capite*, by the service above mentioned. Soon after, it passed into the possession of Robert Scarlet, who died holding the estate in the 33d year of the above reign; but under Edward II. we find that Adam at Broke was owner of the same. He died in the 11th year of the above reign, holding it *in capite*, by the same service; and it appears, that in the latter year, it was accounted a manor, then having a capital messuage, pigeon-house, rents of assize, and 184 acres of land and wood.

His widow, Dionisia at Broke, died possessed of the estate in the 5th of Edward III.; after which, this manor seems to have been separated into moieties.

John de Mereworth, of Mereworth, died in the 39th year of that reign, holding a moiety of the manor of West Peckham, which he held of the king *in capite*, by the service above mentioned; since which, it passed through the same succession of

ownerships as the manor of Mereworth, and is now in the possession of the family of the Stapleton's lords le de Spencer.

THE OTHER MOIETY of the manor of West Peckham, after the death of Dionisia at Broke, in the 5th of Edward III. passed into the hands of Lionel duke of Clarence, the king's third son, in right of his wife, Elizabeth, sole daughter and heir of Sir William de Burgh, earl of Ulster. She died in the 38th year of that reign, leaving by him an only daughter, Philippa, who survived her; but she also died in the 43d year of the same reign, and the duke being then possessed of the moiety of this manor, which he held as the inheritance of Elizabeth, his late wife, deceased, *in capite;* Philippa, his daughter above mentioned, then countess of March, was found to be his next heir.

At the above period, Edward Mortimer, earl of March, her husband, had possession granted of the estate the same year; soon after which, this moiety fell into the possession of that branch of the family of the Colepeper's settled at Oxenhoath, in this parish. It so remained till Sir John Colepeper, one of the judges of the Common Pleas, in the reign of Henry IV., gave it to the Knight's Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, in the 10th year of that reign, A.D. 1408.

They then established a *preceptory* within this manor, which continued part of their possessions till the general dissolution of their hospital, under Henry VIII., when this order was suppressed, and all the revenues given to the king and his heirs, for ever. It was at that time styled *the Preceptory*, or commandery of West Peckham, or *Chantry Magistrate*. A preceptory or commandery was a convenient mansion belonging to those knights, of which they had several on their different estates, the same containing a society of their brethren, placed there to take care of their lands and rents in the respective neighbourhoods.

This manor of West Peckham, for so it was then styled, together with the preceptory, were valued, at the dissolution, at £63 6 8 annual revenue, and £60 clear income.

Henry VIII., in his 33d year, granted the fee of this manor, with its appurtenances, to Sir Robert Southwell, of Mereworth, to hold *in capite;* and he, in the 35th year of the same reign, alienated it to Sir Edmund Walsingham. In that name and

family this manor continued till the reign of Charles I., when Sir Thomas Walsingham, of Scadbury, alienated it with Yoke's place, and other estates in this neighbourhood, to his son-in-law, Mr. James Master, of Yokes, in the adjoining parish of Mereworth, Sir Thomas Walsingham having married the widow of Mr. Nathaniel Master; after which, it passed into the possession of the Right Hon. George Byng, viscount Torrington.

HAMPTONS is a seat in this parish, situated at the western extremity, which, as well as the borough of that name, is accounted within the hundred and manor of GREAT HOO, near Rochester. In the reign of Elizabeth, it was in the possession of John Stanley, gent. of Wilmington, whose grandfather was of Wilmington, in Lancashire, and bore for his arms, *Argent, on a bend, azure, three bucks' heads caboshed, or, a chief gules;* and it appears by an ancient pedigree of the family of the Stanley's, in the hands of William Dalison, esq., that the Stanley's, of this county, were descended from the eldest branch of that family, being the direct heirs of William de Stanley, lord of Stanley, in Staffordshire, and of Stourton, in the 10th of Richard II.; elder brother to John de Stanley, lieutenant of Ireland, who by the daughter and heir of Latham, of Lancashire, was ancestor to the Stanley's earls of Derby; of the Lords Montegle, as well as those of Holte and Wever. He died possessed of this seat in 1616, and his eldest son, Thomas Stanley, esq. of Hamptons, dying in 1668, was buried in this church, near his father. He left issue an only daughter and heir, Frances, married to Maximilian Dalison, esq. of Halling, who in her right became entitled to this seat, whither she removed on the death of her father.

This family of Dalison was of some eminence for its antiquity in this kingdom, as William d'Alanzon, the first ancestor recorded, is said to have landed with William the Conqueror; whose direct descendant, in the eighth generation, was of Langhton, in Lincolnshire, and was the first who wrote himself Dalison. His great grandson, William, of Langhton, was sheriff and escheater of Lincolnshire, and died in 1546, leaving two sons and three daughters; George, the eldest, was of Langhton, whose grandson, Sir Roger Dalison, was lieutenant general of the Ordnance, and created a baronet in 1611.

William Dalison, the second son, represented the county of Lincoln in Parliament in 1554, and was afterwards one of the judges of the King's Bench in the time of Queen Mary, whose coat of arms displayed *Gules, three crescents, or, a canton ermine;* which are still remaining in a window in Gray's Inn chapel. He died in 1558, and was buried in Lincoln cathedral, having left four sons; of whom, William, the eldest, will be mentioned hereafter; Thomas being of Greetwell, in Lincolnshire, and afterwards knighted. Lloyd, in his memoirs, says, Sir Thomas Dalison, of Lancashire, lost his life for his loyalty at Nazeby, together with £12,000 of his estate; and that there were also three colonels of this name in the king's army, viz. Sir Charles, Sir Robert, and Sir William Dalison, who spent £130,000 in the royal cause, being men of great command in their country, who furnished vast supplies for the king's forces.

William Dalison, the eldest son, on his marriage with Silvester, daughter of Robert Dene, gent. of Halling, in this county, in 1573, settled and resided at the bishop's palace, in Halling, where he died in 1585, and was buried in Clerkenwell church. His widow afterwards married William Lambarde, gent. of Greenwich, our Kentish perambulator, who dying in 1587, was buried in Halling church, leaving issue by both her husbands.

Maximilian Dalison, esq., the direct descendant of William, by Silvester his wife, resided at Halling, but marrying Frances, only daughter and heir of Thomas Stanley, gent, of Hamptons, in this parish, removed, as before observed, to this manor, and died in 1671. They left two surviving sons, Thomas and Charles, who was of Chatham.

Thomas, the eldest son, of Hamptons, was twice married, first, to Susan, daughter of Sir Thomas Style, bart. of Watringbury; and secondly, to Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Twisden, bart. of Bradborne. By the latter he had no issue, and died in 1636, leaving, by his first wife, a daughter, who married John Boys, esq. of Hode court, in this county; and Thomas Dalison, esq., who was of Plaxtool, where he resided during the life of his father, and afterwards removed to Hamptons, where he died in 1741, and was buried in Plaxtool chapel, as were his several descendants. He married, first,

Jane, only daughter of Richard Etherington, gent. of Essex, by whom he left Mary, who died unmarried, and Jane, who espoused Sir Geoffrey Amherst, of Riverhead, afterwards Lord Amherst. His second wife was Isabella, daughter of Peter Burrell, esq. of Beckenham, who survived him, and died in 1762. By her he had William and Thomas Dalison; William, the eldest, having possessed Hamptons, but resided at Plaxtool.

The family of Dalison, of Hamptons, has a right to quarter the arms of the Stanley's, and, with them, the coats of Hooton, Houghton, Grosvenor, and Harrington; and with those of Dalison, the coats of Elkington, Greenfield, Dighton, and Blesby.

The borough of Oxenhoath, in this parish, is within *the hundred and manor of Hoo*, near Rochester, at the court of which a borsholder is appointed for this borough yearly.

The manor of Oxenhoath, otherwise *Toxenhoath*, is held of the manor of Great Hoo, by the service of the yearly payment of a pair of gilded spurs; but this custom has been abandoned for many years.

It constituted, in ancient times, part of the possessions of a branch of the family of the Colepeper's, in which name it continued down to Sir John Colepeper, justice of the Common Pleas in the reign of Henry IV., in the 10th year of which monarch, as before mentioned, he gave his manor of West Peckham to the Knight's Hospitallers. He resided at Oxenhoath, of which he died possessed in the reign of Henry V., and was buried in this church, with Catherine, his wife, by whom he left Sir William Colepeper, of Oxenhoath, sheriff of this county in the reign of Henry VI., whose son, Sir John, likewise resided here. His son, Sir William Colepeper, was of Aylesford, and sheriff in the 5th of Henry VI., who by his wife, daughter of Ferrers, of Groby, had three sons, Sir Richard, of Oxenhoath; William, of Preston hall, in Aylesford; and Jeffry.

Sir Richard Colepeper was sheriff in the 11th of Edward IV., and died possessed of Oxenhoath in the 2d of Richard III., leaving, by Isabella, daughter and coheir of Otwell Worceley, of Stamworth, three daughters, his coheirs. Margaret was married to William Cotton; Joyce, to the Lord Edmund Howard, younger son of Thomas duke of Norfolk, whose daughter,

Catherine Howard, was afterwards queen of Henry VIII.; and Elizabeth, to Henry Barham, of Teston. On the division of their inheritance, this estate was allotted to William Cotton, in right of his wife, Margaret, who resided here, and bore for his arms, *Sable, a chevron between three griffins' heads erased, argent.* He was succeeded by his son, Sir Thomas Cotton, who alienated this manor to John Chowne, gent. of Fairlawne, who wishing to confine his possessions within the county of Sussex, passed away this manor to Nicholas Miller, esq. of Horsenells, Crouch, in Wrotham, sheriff of this county in the 8th of Charles I., who bore for his arms, *Ermine, a fess gules between three griffins' heads erased, azure.* He died in 1640, and was buried in Wrotham church, leaving by Jane, his wife, daughter of John Polley, esq. of Preston, two surviving sons, Nicholas, of Oxenhoath, and Mathew, of Buckland, in Surrey.

His eldest surviving son, Sir Nicholas Miller, resided at Oxenhoath, which he greatly embellished, and died in 1658, leaving four sons and four daughters, of whom the former, Humphrey, became his heir; and Nicholas, to whom his grandfather, Nicholas Miller, bequeathed his family seat of Crouch, in Wrotham, and other estates. Humphrey Miller, esq., the eldest son, succeeded his father in this manor and seat, where he resided, and in 1660 was created a bart., who in 1666 was sheriff of this county, and kept his shrievalty at Oxenhoath. He died in 1709, leaving a son and heir, Borlase, and a daughter, Elizabeth, whom we shall mention hereafter.

Sir Borlase Miller, bart., was of Oxenhoath, and died possessed of the same in 1714, leaving his wife Susanna surviving, on which this estate devolved by survivorship, to Elizabeth his sister, before mentioned, then wife of Leonard Bartholomew, esq., of Rochester, who afterwards resided at Oxenhoath, and was sheriff in 1713. He bore for his arms, *Or, three goats' heads erased, sable;* and died in 1720, leaving three sons, Philip, Leonard, and Humphrey, the eldest of whom, Philip Bartholomew, esq., possessed, and resided at Oxenhoath.

He first married the only daughter and heir of Mr. John Knowe, gent., of Ford, in Wrotham, by whom he had two sons, Leonard and John Knowe Bartholomew, the latter of whom died before his brother, without issue. He married, secondly, Mary, youngest daughter of Alexander Thomas, esq. of Lamber-

hurst, by whom he had a daughter, Mary, married to Francis Geary, esq.

Philip Bartholomew died in 1730, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Leonard Bartholomew, esq., who was of Oxenhoath. He died without issue in 1757, and by will gave Oxenhoath, with his other estates in this county, to the second son, then unborn, of Francis Geary, esq., of Polesdon, in Surrey, afterwards an admiral in the royal navy, who was created a bart. on the 10th of August, 1782, with remainder in tail male to the family of Beaumont, in Yorkshire.

His second son, before mentioned, was afterwards born and christened, when William, his elder brother, having died unmarried, he became his father's heir, and succeeded on his death, in 1796, to the baronetcy, and possessed the manor of Oxenhoath, where he resided. He was member of parliament for this county, and bore for his arms, *Gules, two bars argent, on each three muscles of the first, a canton ermine.*

West, or Little Peckham is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to St. Dunstan, is a small building, with a low pointed steeple.

King Edward I., in his 14th year, granted to the priory and convent of Leeds, in this county, the advowson of the church of Parva Pecham, to hold in free, pure, and perpetual alms; when he also granted that they should hold it appropriated to their own use, whensoever they thought fit, without any hindrance of him, his heirs, and successors.

In the 21st of the above reign, *a quo warranto* was brought before the justices itinerant, against the prior and convent, to inquire by what right they possessed this church, then valued at £40 per annum, formerly in the gift of the king; and, upon their pleading the above grant, the jury awarded it to them.

The advowson and parsonage of West Peckham continued with the priory of Leeds till its dissolution under Henry VIII., when it was surrendered to the king, who, in his 33d year, settled this church of Peckham Parva on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester.

The vicarage was a discharged living, of the clear certified value of £45, the yearly tenths being 14s. 7d.

In 1732 it was augmented by the governors of Queen Anne's

Bounty; and by the benefaction of £100 per annum, from the trustees of Sir William Langhorne, bart., being part of his legacy towards the augmentation of small livings; and of £100 17 6, given by Henry Burville, vicar of this parish, which, with £50 added by George Richards, the succeeding vicar, made a sum wherewith a farm, of £15 a year, was purchased in this neighbourhood. The vicarage, a handsome brick house, is situated near the church, and was built by the bounty of Philip Bartholomew, esq., of Oxenhoath.

In 1821, there were eighty-one dwellings in the parish of West, or Little Peckham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 249, females 249, making a total of 498 souls.

Mereworth parish lies eastward from West or Little Peckham, and was usually called *Merrud.* In Domesday it is written *Marourde*, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, Mæruurtha, and Meranwyrthe.

The parish of Mereworth is within the district of the Weald, and situated to the southward of the quarry hills. It is extremely pleasant, as well from its natural beauties, as the buildings, avenues, and other ornamental improvements, displayed throughout the estate, by the late earl of Westmoreland; nor do those made at Yokes, by the late Mr. Master, less contribute to the continued beauty of this scenery.

The turnpike road crosses the parish through the vale from Maidstone towards Hadlow and Tunbridge, on either side of which is a fine avenue of oaks, with a low neat-cut quick hedge, which leaves an uninterrupted view over the house, park, and grounds of lord le Despencer; the church, with its fine built spire, the seat of Yokes, and beyond, an extensive country along the valley to Tunbridge; form a *tout en semble* the most beautiful and luxuriant it is possible to conceive.

Mereworth gave name to an ancient family, of which Sir William de Mereworth, one of that line, was with Richard Cœur de Lion at the siege of Ascalon. The splendid residence, called Mereworth castle, was erected by the late Mildmay Fane, eighth earl of Westmoreland, after a plan of Colin Campbell, from a beautiful design made for a noble Vicentine gentleman, named

Paolo Almerias, an ecclesiastic. Though denominated a *castle*, this structure has not the least pretensions to the appellation, except from having been built on the site of the ancient embattled residence, and being surrounded by the old moat. It consists of a centre, and two wings, displaying equal elegance for offices; that containing the stables stands on the spot formerly occupied by the parish church, which was pulled down by the earl, who caused a new structure to be erected in the centre of the village. The great hall, from which all the apartments branch, is illumined by a dome and cupola, between the walls of which the flues are carried up. The rooms are in general small, but fitted up in a magnificent manner, and contain numerous pictures, many of which are by first-rate masters. Behind the house the ground rises to small hills, forming a sort of amphitheatre, embellished by plantations, and prospect temples. In front is a large sheet of water, that has been expanded from a small rill rising at a short distance westward, which flows into the Medway, near Bow bridge. The parsonage house was also rebuilt by the earl, being a very handsome mansion. In front of the house is an avenue, cut through the woods, three miles in length towards Wrotham heath, completed at an incredible expense and labour by Lord Westmoreland, affording a communication with the high London road. Nature and art are here so exquisitely blended throughout, as to render this a most enchanting situation.

Towards the north this parish rises up to the ridge of eminences, called the quarry hills, still containing some few of the breed of the Martin cats, being the same as those at Hudson's Bay. Over this district is the extensive tract of woodland, called the Herst woods, wherein, as late as the reign of Queen Elizabeth, there were many wild swine, the whole Weald having formerly abounded with those animals, in consequence of the quantity of acorns wherewith it was supplied.

The soil of this parish is very fertile, being composed of the quarry stone, thinly covered with a loam, throughout all the northern parts; but, in the southern, or lower district, it is a fertile clay, mostly pasturage, and exceeding rich in grazing land. The largest oxen at any place in this part of England, which are bred and fatted here, have been known to weigh nearly 300 stone.

This place, at the survey of Domesday was part of the possessions of Hamo Vicecomes, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in that record. This Hamo Vicecomes was Hamo de Crevequer, appointed vicecomes or sheriff, of Kent, soon after his arrival with William the Conqueror, which office he held till his death, in the reign of Henry I. William de Mereworth, as before mentioned, having assisted Richard I. at Palestine, received an addition of the *cross crosslets* to his paternal coat.

John de Mereworth held this manor in the beginning of the reign of Edward II., and under the following monarch was sheriff, and resided at Mereworth castle. His son, of the same name, died in the 44th of Edward III., without issue, on which John de Malmains, of Malmains, in Pluckley, was found to be his heir, who alienated his interest herein to Nicholas Brembre, who bore for his arms, *Argent, three annulets sable, on a canton of the second, a mullet of the first.*

Nicholas de Brembre was citizen and grocer of London, and lord mayor in the 1st of Richard II., in the 5th year of which reign he was knighted for his services against the rebel Wat Tyler, and represented the city of London in Parliament; at length, however, becoming obnoxious to the prevailing party at that time, he was attainted and beheaded. His estate being thus forfeited to the crown, King Richard, in his 13th year, granted this manor to John Hermonstorpe, who shortly afterwards passed it away to Richard Fitz alan, earl of Arundel. His son, Thomas Fitz-alan, earl of Arundel, dying without issue, in the reign of Henry V. A. D. 1415, his four sisters became his coheirs, and on a division of their inheritance, the manor of Mereworth was allotted to Joan lady Abergavenny, the second sister, who died possessed of it in the 13th of Henry VI. After that period it seems to have been vested in Elizabeth, daughter and sole heir of her son, Richard Beachamp, earl of Worcester, and lord Abergavenny, who afterwards married Edward Nevill, fourth son of Ralph earl of Westmoreland, who had possession granted of the lands of his wife's inheritance, and was summoned to Parliament in the reign of Henry VI. by the title of Lord Bergavenny. He survived her, and died in the reign of Edward IV. possessed of this manor of Mereworth. From him it descended to his great grandson, Henry Nevill, lord Abergavenny, who died

in the 29th of Elizabeth, when Mary, his daughter and sole heir, succeeded him, who was then wife of Sir Thomas Fane.

The family of Fane, or Vane, is of ancient Welsh extraction, the members of which, for many generations, wrote themselves Vane.

Thomas Fane having engaged in the rebellion, raised by Sir Thomas Wyatt in the 1st of Queen Mary, was attainted, and a warrant issued for his execution (which we have before adverted to,) but the queen, on account of his extreme youth, pardoned him, and he was restored to liberty and his estates. He was twice married, first to Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Bedgbury, by whom he had no issue; and secondly, to lady Mary, sole daughter and heir of Henry Nevill, lord Abergavenny, and in her right possessed this manor. Sir Thomas Fane (for he had been knighted by Queen Elizabeth,) resided at times both at Mereworth castle and Badsell, and died in the 31st of Elizabeth, leaving by lady Mary his wife, who survived him, Francis, his heir, and George, who succeeded to this manor and estate at Mereworth, after his mother's death, having been constituted heir to his uncle, Sir Thomas Fane, of Burston. Lady Mary Fane, on the death of her father, Henry lord Abergavenny, had challenged the title of baroness Bergavenny against Edward Nevill, son of Sir Edward Nevill. This claim was not determined until after the death of Sir Thomas Fane, in the 1st of James I., when, after great discussion on both sides, it was, by the lords commissioners for the office of Earl Marshal, decreed to the heir male; when, in order to make some compensation to the female heir, the king, by his letters patent, granted and restored to her, and her heirs, the dignity of baroness le Despencer, with the ancient seat, place, and precedency of her ancestors.

The lady Mary, baroness le Despencer, survived her husband many years, and died at Mereworth castle in 1626, leaving her two sons, Francis and George, surviving, the former of whom was, in 1623, created baron Burghersh, and earl of Westmoreland. He died in 1628, leaving by his wife several sons and daughters, of the former of whom, Mildmay, the eldest, succeeded him in his titles; Francis was afterwards knighted, and Henry became ancestor of the viscounts Fane.

Mildmay, the eldest son, earl of Westmoreland, died in 1665,

leaving by his first wife, one son, Charles, who succeeded him in his honours and estates; and, by his second lady, one son, named Vere Fane.

Charles earl of Westmoreland, was twice married, but dying without issue, in 1691, was succeeded by his half-brother, Sir Vere Fane, K.B. He died the following year, leaving by his wife several sons and daughters, when, of the former, Vere succeeded him in his titles and estates, and died unmarried in 1699. Thomas, his brother, succeeded him as earl of Westmoreland, and died also without issue: John, the third son, upon his death, became earl of Westmoreland; and Mildmay was the fourth son, both of whom will again be mentioned.

Of the daughters, Mary married Sir Francis Dashwood, bart. of London, father of the late lord le Despencer; Catherine espoused William Paul, esq.; and Susan died unmarried.

George Fane, the second son of the lady baroness le Despencer, succeeded, on his mother's death, to the manor of Mereworth; and on the demise of Sir Thomas Fane, of Burston, his uncle, in 1606, succeeded to his estate at Burston.

Sir George Fane, who had been knighted, resided afterwards at Burston, where he died in 1640, being succeeded in this manor and estate by his eldest son, Thomas Fane, esq. of Burston, who was a colonel in the army. He died unmarried at Burston, in 1692, leaving the manor and castle of Mereworth, with the advowson of the church, and all his other estates in this county, to Mildmay Fane, the youngest son of Vere earl of Westmoreland.

Mildmay Fane, esq. resided at Mereworth castle, and in 1745 was chosen M.P. for the county. He died unmarried the same year, and was succeeded in this manor and castle, as well as other estates, by Thomas earl of Westmoreland, his eldest surviving brother, who was chief justice in Eyre, south of Trent, and of the privy council to King George I. He resided at Mereworth castle, where he died in 1736, when his honours and estates descended to John, his youngest and only surviving brother, who became seventh earl of Westmoreland, and following a military career, arrived at the rank of lieutenant general. On the death of his younger brother, Mildmay Fane, he was, in 1715, chosen in his room M.P. for this county; in 1733 created a peer of Ireland, by the title of baron Catherlough; and in 1737

appointed lord lieutenant of Northamptonshire. He retired to Mereworth castle soon after the death of Earl Thomas, which seat he rebuilt, as well as the church of Mereworth, in an elegant style, and continued adding to the improvements and grandeur of this edifice, till the period of his decease, which mansion is, in consequence, esteemed one of the greatest ornaments of this county.

The earl was high steward, and afterwards chancellor of the university of Oxford, in which elevated and honourable office he was installed in 1759, with the greatest solemnity, and a magnificence and splendor never displayed at any former installation.

He married Mary, only daughter and heir of lord Henry Cavendish, but dying in 1762, by will devised this manor and seat, with his other estates in this county, to his nephew, Sir Francis Dashwood, bart., son of Sir Francis, of West Peckham, by his sister, the lady Mary, eldest daughter of Vere earl of Westmoreland, as well as to the heirs of his body, with remainder to Sir Thomas Stapleton, bart., his great nephew, son of Sir William Stapleton, bart., by Catherine, daughter and heir of William Paul, of Broomwich, in Oxfordshire, by his sister Catherine, youngest daughter of the said Vere earl of Westmoreland.

On the death of John earl of Westmoreland, without issue, his Irish peerage became extinct, but the barony of le Despencer being a barony in fee to heirs general, was confirmed to Sir Francis Dashwood, bart., his sister's son, while the titles of baron Burghersh and earl of Westmoreland devolved to Thomas Fane, of Bristol, merchant, the next heir male descendant of Sir Francis Fane, second surviving son of Francis, first earl of Westmoreland, who bore for their arms, *Azure, three right hand gauntlets, with their backs affrontee, or,* and for their crest, *out of a ducal coronet, or, a bull's head, argent, pied, sable armed, or, and charged on the neck with a rose, gules, barbed and seeded proper,* being the ancient crest of the Nevill's.

Sir Francis Dashwood, bart., was descended from Samuel Dashwood, esq., of Rowney, near Taunton, who by his first wife had John, ancestor of the Dashwood's of Essex and Suffolk; Francis, of whom hereafter; and Richard and William, of Cheshunt, in Herts; and, by his second wife, he had George, ancestor to the Dashwood's of Oxford, baronets.

Francis Dashwood, the second son, was a Turkey merchant, and an alderman of London, and bore for his arms, *Argent, on a fess double cotized, gules, three griffins' heads, erased, or*, granted to him in 1662, by Byshe Clarenceux at arms. He died in 1683, leaving several children, the eldest of whom, Samuel, was knighted, and lord mayor of London in 1702, being ancestor of the Dashwood's of Well, in Lincolnshire. Francis, the youngest, was knighted, and created a baronet in 1707, whose second wife was the lady Mary, eldest sister of John earl of Westmoreland, who died in 1710, and lies buried in West Wycomb church, in Bucks., where an elegant monument is erected to her memory. By her he had an only son Francis, and a daughter Rachael; Sir Francis was of West Wycomb, and on the decease of John earl of Westmoreland, succeeded by his will to this manor and house of Mereworth, as well as the rest of his estates, when the king, on the 19th of April, 1763, confirmed to him, in right of the lady Mary, his mother, the premier barony of le Despencer, the same being a barony in fee, descendible to the heirs general.

He married the daughter of Henry Gould, esq. of Iver, in Bucks, by whom he had no issue, and died in 1760, upon which this manor and seat, with the rest of his estates, went by the will of John earl of Westmoreland, as before mentioned, to Sir Thomas Stapleton, bart., of Grays, in Oxfordshire, (son of Sir Thomas Stapleton, the earl's great nephew, who had departed this life in 1781;) and he on the death of Rachael, sister of the late lord le Despencer, and widow of Sir Robert Austin, bart., in 1788, succeeded likewise to the title of lord le Despencer, and the possession of this elegant seat, now called Mereworth, or more commonly Merrud house, as well as the manor and advowson of this church.

He married Elizabeth, second daughter of S. Eliot, esq. of Antigua, by whom he had a son and daughter; and bore for his arms, *Argent, a lion rampant, gules*, for Stapleton quartered with the arms of Fane; and for his supporters those of the earls of Westmoreland, the dexter, *a griffin*, the sinister, *a bull, both collared and chained;* crest, *a saracen's head.*

Yokes Place, formerly called *Iotes Place*, is a seat in this parish, the site of which, in the reign of Henry III., was in the possession of Fulco de Sharstede, who then held it in fee of

the earl of Gloucester. His descendant, Simon de Sharstede, died possessed of it under Edward I., when it passed to the family of the Leyborne's, and under Edward III. was in the possession of William de Clinton, earl of Huntingdon, in right of his wife Juliana de Leyborne, who survived him, and again held it in her own right. She died in the 41st of that reign, having no issue, as frequently before observed. On her demise, this estate, for want of heirs, became escheated to the crown, and passed to a family which gave name to this property, and was written in several dateless deeds, *Icotes*, by contraction called *Iotes*. This name, however, became extinct before the end of the reign of Richard II., when it appears to have been in the possession of Richard Fitz-alan, earl of Arundel, from whom it descended in like manner as Mereworth, to Joan his daughter, coheir to Thomas, earl of Arundel, her brother, who married William Beauchamp, lord Abergavenny. Their son, Richard earl of Worcester, and lord Abergavenny, leaving an only daughter and heir, Elizabeth, she carried Iotes place in marriage to Edward Nevill, fourth son of Ralph earl of Westmoreland. His son, Sir George Nevill, lord Bergavenny, died possessed of the estate in the 7th of Henry VII., A.D. 1491, leaving several sons and daughters, of whom George, the eldest, succeeded as lord Abergavenny, to this estate, and also that of Mereworth manor. William was the second son; George the third, whose descendants succeeded, in process of time, to the barony of Abergavenny; and Sir Thomas Nevill was the fourth son, to whom his father bequeathed Iotes place. He was of the privy council to Henry VIII., and secretary of state, and dying in 1542 was buried in Mereworth church. His only daughter and heir Margaret, married Sir Robert Southwell, master of the rolls, who in her right possessed Iotes place, where he resided; but in the 35th of Henry VIII. he alienated it, with other estates, in this parish and West Peckham, to Sir Edward Walsingham, of Scadbury, in this county. In his descendants it continued till the latter end of the reign of Charles I., when Sir Thomas Walsingham conveyed Yokes place to his son-in-law, Mr. James Master, son of Mr. Nathaniel Master, whose widow he had married. Mr. James Master resided here, where he died in 1689, and was buried in Mereworth church, having left three sons and two daughters, when the eldest of the former,

James, resided at Yokes place, and was sheriff in 1725. He died in 1728, and gave by will this seat of Yokes to his youngest brother, Richard Master, who likewise resided at Yokes, and died unmarried in 1767, bequeathing this and his other possessions to his nephew, William Daniel, esq. of Surrey, enjoining him to assume the name and arms of the Master's, and he accordingly bore, quarterly first and fourth, *Master, azure, a fess crevelle, between three griffins' heads erased, or;* second and third, *Daniel, argent, a pale fusilly sable.*

William Daniel Master, esq. resided at Yokes place, where he was sheriff in 1771, having nearly rebuilt this seat, and laid out the adjoining grounds in a modern and elegant manner. He married Frances Isabella, daughter of Thomas Dalison, esq. of West Peckham, and died in 1792, leaving his wife surviving.

Swanton Court is a manor in this parish, the mansion of which, situated about half a mile westward from Yokes place, is now but a mean cottage. In the reign of Henry III., Richard de Swanton held it in fee of John de Belleacre, as did the latter of the earl of Gloucester. In the 10th of Edward III. it had become the property of Elizabeth, sole daughter and heir of William de Burgh, earl of Ulster, who by her husband, Lionel duke of Clarence, left an only daughter Philippa, and her husband, Edward Mortimer earl of March, had possession granted him of this manor, among other lands of her inheritance.

The estate then passed into the possession of that branch of the eminent family of the Colepeper's seated at Oxenhoath, where it remained till Sir John Colepeper gave it, with other lands in this neighbourhood, in the reign of Henry IV., to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem. It continued with that fraternity till the general dissolution under Henry VIII., when the revenues passed to the king, who the next year granted Swanton to Sir Robert Southwell, who in the 35th of the same reign, alienated it to Sir Edmund Walsingham. In his descendants it continued till the reign of Charles I., when Sir Thomas alienated it to his son-in-law, Mr. James Master; since which it has descended in like manner as Yokes, to William Daniel Master, esq., who died possessed of it in 1792, having devised it by will to George Byng, lord viscount Torrington.

Fowkes is a manor in this parish, formerly esteemed an appendage to the manor of Watringbury, under which a further account may be seen. It belonged to the abbey of St. Mary Grace, London, and after the dissolution, in the reign of Henry VIII., passed through several owners till the accession of James I., when it was alienated to Oliver Style, esq., in whose descendants it has remained, the inheritance having been vested in Sir Charles Style, bart. of Watringbury.

Baron's Place is a capital messuage in Mereworth, which, with the estate belonging thereto, was part of the possessions of Sir Nicholas Pelham, of Cattsfield place, in Sussex, who alienated it to Christopher Vane, lord Barnard, after which it descended in like manner as Shipborne and Fairlawne, to William viscount Vane, and he dying in 1789, devised it by will to David Papillon, esq. of Acrise.

The Family of the Brewer's resided in this parish for many generations, prior to its removal in the reign of Henry VI. to Smith's hall, in West Farleigh; the seat here having been thence called *Brewer's place.*

Mereworth is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to St. Laurence, was an ancient building, and formerly stood on the spot now occupied by the west wing of Mereworth house. It was pulled down, as previously mentioned, by John, late earl of Westmoreland, and rebuilt on the plan of St. Paul's Covent Garden, originally designed by Inigo Jones. It is however more beautiful, and has a splendid spire. This church contains no pews, having seats after the manner of those on the continent; and the pillars are all painted in imitation of marble. The east window contains some fine stained glass, which was conveyed from the old castle, representing the arms and alliances of the earls of Westmoreland. In a small chapel at the west end, are the remains and splendid monuments of the *Fane's*, the same having been removed from the old church. The register contains many entrances of the baptisms and burials of that family.

In the reign of Henry II. the advowson of this church was the property of Roger de Mereworth, between whom, and the prior of Leeds there had been much disputation concerning the

patronage; at length both parties submitted their claims to Gilbert bishop of Rochester, who decreed that the advowson should remain to Roger de Mereworth.

This living was valued in the king's books at £14 2 6, the yearly tenths being £1 8 3.

The parsonage house formerly stood at a small distance north-eastward from Mereworth house; but, as the dwelling obstructed the view from the front, the late lord le Despencer obtained leave to pull it down, and erected a new mansion of equal dimensions, with a glebe of the same quantity to that of the site of the old parsonage, in exchange; which was accordingly done in the year 1779.

In 1821 there were 131 dwellings in the parish of Mereworth; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 363, females 348, making a total of 711 souls.

THE HUNDRED OF WROTHAM.

WESTWARD from the hundred of LARKFIELD lies that of WROTHAM, usually pronounced *Ruteham*, called in Domesday *Brotsham*, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, WROTEHAM.

THIS HUNDRED CONTAINS WITHIN ITS BOUNDS THE PARISHES OF STANSTED, WROTHAM, IGHTHAM, AND SHIPBORNE.

STANSTED lies the next parish northwestward from Trottesclive, upon the summit of the chalk hill, on a stony soil, as the name implies; *stane* signifying a stone, and *stede* a place, in the Saxon language.

This parish lies in a most unfrequented dreary country, upon very elevated ground, about a mile northward from the summit of the great ridge of chalk hills. From its high situation, it is extremely cold, being exposed to the north-east, whence it commands a beautiful and extensive prospect. The soil is very poor, consisting either of chalk, or a red stiff earth, both mixed with flint stones; and, in the western part, there is some coppice wood. The church and village, through which the road leads from Ash to Wrotham, is situated westward, being not more than one mile from the twenty-second milestone on the London road, from Farningham to Wrotham and Maidstone. In the eastern part are two hamlets, called Hodges street and Farsee, in the latter of which is the seat of Mr. Wilson, the road from Longfield, by Hartley bottom, leading through it to Trottesclive.

About the time of Easter, in 1666, a pasture field, in this parish, at a considerable distance from the sea or any branch of the same, and at a place where there were no fishponds but rather a scarcity of water, was scattered over with small fish, being about one bushel in quantity, supposed to have been rained down from a cloud, a great tempest of thunder, hail, and wind, having occurred at the same time. These fish were about

the size of a man's little finger, a portion resembling small whitings, others sprats, while there were some smaller, similar to smelts. Several of these fish were shown publicly at Maidstone and Dartford.

The manor of Stansted, which is subordinate, and esteemed as a *borough* belonging to that of Wrotham, in the reign of Henry III. was in the possession of a family of the name of Grapinell; by a female coheir of which, the property went in marriage to William de Inge, who was one of the judges in the reign of Edward II. In the 1st year of that monarch, he procured *free warren* for this manor; and, in the 9th year of the same reign, an annual fair. He died in the 15th year of the above king, when Joan, his daughter, married Eudo or Ivo la Zouch, son of William lord Zouch, of Haringworth; in whose descendants it continued down to Henry la Zouch, who died possessed of it under Henry VI. Soon after the above period, it passed to Sir William Colepeper, of Aylesford, whose eldest son, Richard, was soon afterwards knighted, and succeeded to this manor. He died in the 2d of Richard III., A.D. 1484, leaving three daughters his coheirs, who, in the reign of Henry VII., joined in the sale of this manor to Thomas Leigh, of Sibton, in Lyminge, whose son, John Leigh, esq., was of Addington, in Surrey. He died possessed of the estate in 1544, and his grandson, of the same name, in the 5th of Elizabeth, devised it to Richard Blunt, otherwise Leigh, his natural son, for a long term of years, and died in 1576, when the fee was alienated to Robert Byng, esq. of Wrotham, who died four years afterwards. His great grandson, John Byng, esq. of Wrotham, in the reign of Charles II., passed it away, as well as the rest of his possessions at Wrotham and elsewhere in this neighbourhood, to William James, esq. of Ightham, whose direct descendant, Richard James, esq., afterwards possessed the property.

There is a manor in this parish called Soranks, which, in the reign of Henry III., was held by Ralph de Sandwich of the archbishop of Canterbury, as one quarter of a knight's fee; but, in the reign of Edward I., it was in the possession of a family that gave name to it, one of whom, Edmund Sorank held it in the reign of Edward II., as did Roger, in the 20th of Edward III. This manor did not long remain in the latter name, as, in the beginning of the reign of Richard II., it had

become the property of Thomas Mortimer, of Mortimers, in Cliff, near Rochester; and he, in the 20th year of the same prince, passed it by sale to William Skrene, from which name it was alienated to the Wood's; in whose descendants it remained till the latter end of the reign of Henry VII., when Thomas Wood passed it away to Robert Barefoot.

He died in the 1st of Edward VI. possessed of this manor, and 140 acres of arable and wood land in Stansted, held of the king, as of the manor of Otford, by knight's service. Thomas Barefoot was his son and heir, who sold this manor to Henry Fanshawe and Dorothy, his wife, who, in the reign of Elizabeth, alienated it to George Wiseman; by whom it was passed to one Launce, and in his descendants it continued till conveyed by sale to Mr. John Cox. The latter having purchased of Sir Roger Twisden, bart. an estate on the summit of the hill on the eastern side of this parish, built a mansion for his residence, naming it FAIRSEAT, which, for the extensiveness of the prospect it commands, is generally called *Fairsee*. Of the last-mentioned family there are several memorials in Stansted church, the members of which bore for their arms, *Sable, a chevron argent, between three attires of a stag fixed to the scalp of the second*. He died possessed both of this manor and seat in 1736, leaving by Hannah his wife, who survived him, John Cox, esq. who was of Fairseat, when the latter leaving no issue, was succeeded by his only sister, Sarah, married to George Wilson, esq., who became jointly with her the possessor of this manor and seat.

STANSTED is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar* of the archbishop of Canterbury, is in the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, dedicated to the Virgin, is merely a chapel to the church of Wrotham, from which it was separated by ordnance of Parliament passed in 1647, and made a distinct church; but at the Restoration, in 1660, it reverted to its former state. It anciently paid 6d. *chrism* rent to the mother church of the diocese.

This chapel is not valued separate from Wrotham in the king's books; the whole emoluments are received by the rector and vicar of Wrotham as an appendage to that church, and he appoints a curate from time to time to officiate here.

In 1821 there were fifty-one dwellings in the parish of Stan-

sted; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 158, females 134, making a total of 292 souls.

WROTHAM PARISH lies southward from Stansted, being pronounced *Ruteham*, in Domesday, *Broteham*, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, WROTEHAM; it is of large extent, being nearly five miles long, but only three in breadth.

The village or town of Wrotham is situated at the foot of the great ridge of chalk hills; above the summit of which this parish extends northward. From the eminence called Wrotham hill is a most beautiful prospect southward, the soil being luxuriantly clothed with fine spreading beech trees. It is bounded by the sand hills at the southern extremity; and the high road from London, by Farningham, to Maidstone, leads through this town, which is about twenty-four miles from London.

At the entrance is the mansion of the rectory, a handsome house; and on the opposite side of the road stands the church, and the small remains of the archiepiscopal palace. In the centre of the town is the market-place and public well, both repaired by the lord of the manor. Opposite the market, is Wrotham place, the seat of Mr. Haddock; at which spot the road divides, that branching to the right leads to Yaldham and Ightham, the route to the left being the London road to Maidstone, which continues southeastward along a chalky soil, through *the borough of Neupiker*, where there is a handsome mansion that belonged to Mr. Tomlyn, and a spring, which supplies the rivulet running by Ford, situated at the western boundaries of the parish, near Addington, and thence by Leyborne, towards the Medway. About a mile from Neupiker is Wrotham heath, a barren sandy soil, both red and black, on which, however, great quantities of peat are dug. Here the road divides, the left leading by the Royal Oak, to Maidstone, near which are the two hamlets of Great and Little Comp, with the woods of that name; and to the right, towards Ightham, the ancient Roman camp, on Oldbury hill, over Seal Chart, to Sevenoak and Westerham. On the southern side of the road, this parish extends over the hill to Hale borough and the hamlet of Plaxtool, where the soil, from a sand, becomes a stiff clay,

through a fertile but unpleasant country. The chapel and street of Plaxtool, together with the seat of Fairlawn, are situated at the southern boundaries, near Shipborne and West Peckham. In Plaxtool street, is a good house, built by Thomas Dalison, esq. of Hamptons. Near the last-mentioned hill, but still within the circuit of this borough, are two hamlets, called Plaxtool street and Crouch, the latter having been formerly the residence of the family of the Miller's, baronets; and about half a mile eastward, is a large tract of woodland, called the Herst or Compwoods. Through the former runs a stream that rises near Ightham, which having turned a papermill at Basted, passes through this borough, towards West Peckham and Hadlow, and thence into the Medway.

That part of this parish lying southward below Comp hill and the hill above Fairlawn, is in the district of the Weald, though several writers have contended that all that portion of Wrotham lying below the chalk hill is in the Weald of Kent. In proof of this, they urge the non-payment of tithes for the wood in those parts of this parish; the opinion, however, generally received is, that the Weald begins at the next sand hill above Fairlawn; and the wood being exempted from tithe, can be no proof that it is in the Weald, as there are obviously such large districts in this county out of that district which claim and enjoy the same privilege.

In addition to the gentlemen's families, hereafter mentioned, who formerly resided in this parish, was that of John Richers, a justice of the Peace in 1750, a period when that office was truly an honour to those intrusted with the same. He was descended from an ancient family of Swanington hall, in Norfolk; William Bryan, esq., sole heir to the bishop of Chichester, also resided here in the reign of James I., and bore for his arms, *Or, three piles azure, a chief ermine.*

A branch of the family of the Polley's, or Polhill's, once resided in this parish. John Thomas Polhill was of Wrotham in the reign of Elizabeth, whose grandson, William Thomas, gent. removed to Selling, in this county, and bore for his arms, *Argent, a fess dancette, sable, between three cornish choughs, proper.*

Thomas Shakerby, third son of Francis Shakerby, of Ditton, in this county, resided at Wrotham in the reign of James I.

In Blacksole field, in this parish, Sir Robert Southwell, sheriff of this county, and the lord Abergavenny, with about 500 gentlemen and yeomen, routed the Isley's and their party, who were engaged in the rebellion raised by Sir Thomas Wyatt. The rebels were pursued hence near four miles, to Hartley wood, where many were killed, and about sixty taken prisoners; those slain in that encounter having been buried on the field of battle: Sir Henry Isley himself escaped, and fled into Hampshire.

Some of our antiquaries, viz. Talbot, and after him Lambarde, have conjectured Wrotham to have been the station called, in the Itinerary of Antoninus, *Vagniacæ;* but in this we do not find that they have been followed by any other writers. There is great probability that the *Roman military way* passed by Ofham, through this parish, near the Comps, westward, towards Oldborough and Stone street, as will be further mentioned.

Mr. Hasted says that, about seventy years ago, considerable quantities of British silver coins were discovered in this parish by a mole casting up the earth, when the whole were seized by the lord of the manor of Wrotham.

Wrotham was given to Christ church, in Canterbury, by King Ethelstan, in 964, and continued part of the possessions of that church when Lanfranc was invested with the see, in 1070, being the 5th of the reign of the Conqueror.

The archbishops had, very anciently, a *palace* here, wherein they frequently resided till the time of Archbishop Simon Islip, who came to the see in the reign of Edward III., when that prelate, wishing to complete the palace at Maidstone, which his predecessor, John Ufford, had began, and wanting materials for that purpose, pulled down the chief part of this residence, and transported thither the materials. In this situation the manor, with the ruins of the palace, continued till the reign of Henry VIII., when Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, conveyed them, as well as his other estates in this parish, to the king, in exchange for other premises, reserving only the church; at which time the site and demesnes were let by the archbishop, at the yearly rent of £5 6 8. There were also paid to the archbishop, who reserved the royalty and rents of the manor to himself, from the farmers and tenants, of ancient custom, annually, 264 hens, valued at 60s., 1159 eggs, at 5s. 9d., and two geese,

at 10d.; which fact is mentioned here to shew the small value of these articles at the period alluded to.

King Edward VI., in his 4th year, granted to Sir John Mason the site of this manor and the park of Wrotham, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service; and in his 6th year, he granted to him and Dame Elizabeth, his wife, by letters patent, the manor itself, in fee, at the yearly rental of £46 10 6 of feefarm. Sir John alienated this property, with all its appurtenances, in the reign of Philip and Mary, to Robert Byng, who resided at Wrotham, most probably at the palace, and bore for his arms, quarterly, *Sable and argent in the first quarter, a lion rampant of the second, armed and langued gules.* At the above period, this park was broken up, at least it no longer continued such prior to the period when Lambarde wrote his Perambulation, in 1570. It lies half a mile south-east from Wrotham church, the lodge, however, being then still remaining. He died possessed of it in the 38th of Queen Elizabeth, when George Byng, his eldest son, succeeded to this manor, who was of Wrotham; and he demised it on lease for ninety-nine years, to Sir Robert Darell, of Calehill, in trust, for particular uses, and died possessed of the fee in 1616. His grandson, John Byng, whose eldest son, George, was created Lord Viscount Torrington, succeeded him in his possessions here, which, soon after the death of Charles I., he alienated to William James, esq. of Ightham court, at which time he had likewise an assignment of the remainder of the term granted to Sir Robert Darell, as above mentioned. His great grandson, William James, esq. died in 1780, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Richard James, esq. of Ightham, who possessed this manor, with the remains of the palace, and the estate belonging to the same.

There is a court-leet and court-baron held for this manor, which is paramount over the whole hundred, where, besides the constables of the upper and lower half hundred of Wrotham, there are chosen six borsholders for the six villes or boroughs of Wrotham town, Stansted, Neupiker, Wingfield, Roughway, and Hale borough.

THE PALACE stood adjoining to the east side of the churchyard, there are now scarcely any remains left of the house itself, though there is a large substantial stone building that once con-

stituted part of the offices belonging to the palace, wherein, most probably, the Byng's dwelt while in possession of this manor and estate, as a gateway still displays the arms of that family, carved in stone. In the field behind the ruins, are marks of a garden and bowling-green, while a terrace is still plainly visible.

Little Wrotham is a district in the north-east part of this parish, next to Trottesclive, which, in the reign of the Conqueror, was part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, on whose disgrace, the property became confiscated to the crown.

In the reign of Henry I., Geoffry Talbot possessed the manor of Little Wrotham, the greater part of which he gave to Bishop Gundulph and the church of St. Andrew, in Rochester; which gift was then confirmed by the king.

In the 20th of Edward III., the bishop of Rochester paid for half a knight's fee, which he held in Little Wrotham, that portion containing about 130 acres of land. It continued part of the possessions of the bishop of Rochester, and was subsequently in the demesne of Thomas Whitaker, esq. of Trottesclive, by lease, from the bishop. The other part, containing about twenty acres, became the property of Mr. Tomlyn, gent. of Neupiker, in this parish, the tithes of both being claimed and taken by the heirs of Sir Richard Bettenson, bart., who pays thence forty sheaves of corn, or, as the rector's lease expresses it, forty shocks of wheat, yearly, to the rector of Wrotham.

Wrotham place is an ancient mansion situated on the south side of the high street of Wrotham town, which has been for many years the habitation of gentlemen. It was formerly called Nyssell's, from a family of that name by which it was possessed; one of whom, Thomas Nyssell, died possessed of it in 1498, and lies buried, with Alice, his wife, in this church. When the latter name became extinct here, or who succeeded, we have not found; but, in the reign of James I., the estate was purchased by John Rayney, esq. of London, who seated himself at Wrotham place. He was lineally descended from John Reignie, for so the name was written in old deeds, who held the manors of Edgeford, in Devonshire, and of Smitheley hall, in Yorkshire, in the reign of Edward III. The above John was a descendant of Sir John de Reignie, who appears, from the muniments of this family, to have possessed lands in Cumberland

in the reign of Henry III., and his descendant, William Rayney, was of Yorkshire, and ancestor of John Rayney, esq. of London, who bore for his arms, *Gules, two wings in lure, ermine.* His son, John, succeeded him in this estate, where he resided, and was knighted at the coronation of Charles I., and in 1641, created a baronet of Nova Scotia, and served the office of sheriff of this county. His son, Sir John Rayney, bart., was born at Wrotham place in 1660, and dying in 1705, was buried in this church, leaving three daughters his coheirs, when the baronet-age became extinct. His heirs, some few years after his death, conveyed this seat to the Stephenson's, who, in 1725, sold it to Captain Nicholas Haddock, son of Sir Richard Haddock, comptroller to the navy, who bore for his arms, *Argent, a cross sable in the first quarter, a fleur de lis of the second.* He resided occasionally at Wrotham place, till the time of his death, which happened in 1746, leaving three sons; Nicholas, who became his heir; Richard, comptroller of the navy; Charles, who was of Canterbury; and a daughter, who died unmarried. Nicholas, the eldest, succeeded his father in this seat, of which he died possessed in 1781, and was succeeded by his brother and heir at law, Charles Haddock, esq., who resided at Wrotham, and married Miss Medhurst, of Wrotham, by whom he had no issue.

YALDHAM is a district in this parish, situated about a mile westward from Wrotham church, of which the principal manor is called EAST or GREAT YALDHAM MANOR, having been formerly so denominated to distinguish it from the adjoining manor of WEST or LITTLE YALDHAM, and also from that of YALDHAM, otherwise ST. CLERE'S, in the parish of Ightham. The original name of these manors was *Ealdham*, a name which denotes their antiquity, *Eald*, in Saxon, signifying old, and *ham*, a dwelling.

These *three manors* were formerly owned by a family of the same name, one of whom, Sir Thomas de Aldham, was with Richard I. at the siege of Ascalon, in Palestine. His descendant, Sir Thomas de Aldham, possessed them in the reign of King Edward II., and dying without issue male, his three daughters became his coheirs, the eldest of whom married a Newborough, of Dorsetshire; Margery espoused Martin Peckham; and Isolda became the wife of John St. Clere; when, on a division of their inheritance, Martin Peckham became entitled to the portion of the estate lying in Wrotham;

as did John St. Clere to that situated in Ightham, each in right of their respective wives.

The first of this name of Peckham of any note was John, who attended Richard I. to the siege of Ascalon, in Palestine, in 1191, from whom descended John, who held the manor of Peckham, in Hadlow, in the reign of Edward I. His son was Martin, who married Margery, daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas de Aldham, as above mentioned, and possessed the manors of East and West Yaldham, in this parish, in her right, the former of which he made his residence, where his posterity continued for many generations. Weever says, (from Francis Thinne Lancaster herald,) that the two tombs near the door of this parish-church, were those of this Martin Peckham, and Margery his wife, which family bore for its arms, *Ermine, a chief quarterly, or and gules,* the same shield remaining in one of the windows of Barham church, under which is subscribed *Jacobus Peccam.*

His grandson, Reginald or Reynold Peckham, was of Yaldham, where he resided in the latter end of the reign of Edward III., when he purchased the manor of Wingfield, in this parish. His son, James Peckham, esq. of Yaldham, was sheriff in the 1st and 12th of Richard II., who married Lora, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Morant, of Morant's court, in Chevening, and widow of Sir Thomas Cawne, with whom he had, among other estates, the manor of Barsted, near Borough green, in this parish.

His descendant, James Peckham, esq. of Yaldham, was sheriff in the reign of Edward IV.; as was his son, Reginald, and, on his father's death, succeeded to these manors and the mansion-house of Yaldham. He was an esquire of the body of Henry VIII., and dying in the 16th year of that monarch's reign, lies buried in this church.

His grandson, Reginald Peckham, of Yaldham, procured the disgavelment of his lands in the reign of Edward VI., and died under Philip and Mary, possessed of the manor of Aldham, or East Yaldham, held of the manor of Lullingstone castle by knight's service; and the manor of *Parva,* otherwise West Aldham, with that also of Dawnton's court, of the duke of Northumberland, as of his manor of Otford, by knight's service. He also held at that time the lands called Goldsmiths,

in this parish, and Stansted, near Compen wood, of the manor of St. John's, in Sutton. His descendant, Reginald Peckham, esq. of Yaldham, left two daughters his coheirs; Dorothy, married to Thomas Chiffinch, esq. of Northfleet, by whom she had no issue; and Anne, to — Bartlett, esq. of Westminster. Reginald Peckham, esq., last mentioned, alienated the manors of East and West Yaldham, the mansion-house, and Terry's lodge, with other premises in Wrotham, about the year 1713, to George St. Loe, esq., a captain in the navy, and commissioner of Chatham yard, who bore for his arms, *Argent on a bend, sable, three amulets, or, a martlet in chief*, for difference. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Chiffinch, esq. of Northfleet, who survived him; and their son and heir, about the year 1733, alienated this property to Mr. Francis Austen, of Sevenoak, who immediately after passed it away by sale to William Evelyn Glanville, esq. of St. Clere's, in Ightham, whose son and heir, William Evelyn, esq. of St. Clere's, succeeded to the possession of the same. The Peckham's were the last gentlemen who resided at Yaldham mansion, since which it has been converted into a farm-house. The courts for these manors have not been held for many years.

Gosfrid de Ros gave *his tithe* of Ealdeham for ever to the monks of St. Andrew, in Rochester, for the good of the soul of his wife, that land belonging to Wrotham; for which gift the monks were bound to celebrate his wife's anniversary yearly.

The portion of tithes which arose from 140 acres of land in this parish, continued part of the possessions of the priory of Rochester till its dissolution, under Henry VIII., when that monarch settled it on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom it still continues vested.

On the dissolution of deans and chapters, after the death of Charles I., the portion of tithes issuing out of Yaldham manor was surveyed in 1649, in order to be sold for the benefit of the state.

In 1770, the tenants of this portion of tithes were Nash Mason, esq. and Mrs. Margaret Wiffin, afterwards married to Mr. Tomlyn, of Neupiker; the latter having continued in possession of her part, while that of the former was sold to William Glanville Evelyn, esq., the tenant of which he remained.

About a mile and a half eastward from Wrotham church, near

Addington common, lies FORD, so called from the ford here, over the brook which rises at Neupiker, and runs close by the house to Leybourn, and thence into the Medway. Ford was very anciently in the possession of the family of the Clerke's, written in old evidences Le Clerke, which resided at this place, and bore for arms, *Argent, on a bend, engrailed azure, a cinquefoil pierced, or.* John Clerke, esq., was of Ford in the reigns of Henry V. and VI., whose son and heir, John Clerke, was made second baron of the court of Exchequer in the 39th of Henry VI., which dignity he seems to have held till the 20th of Edward IV., A.D. 1479. In his descendants, residents at Ford, it continued down to William Clerke, esq. of Ford, who was a brave and valiant gentleman, and, in 1641, received the honour of knighthood; and, to manifest his loyalty to the king, raised and armed a regiment at his own expense, at the head of which he was slain, together with Sir William Boteler, in the encounter between the king's forces and those of the Parliament, under Sir William Waller, at Cropedy bridge, on the 29th of June, 1644.

His widow afterwards held this estate as part of her jointure, of which she continued possessed at the restoration, in 1660; and her heirs alienated it to Mr. John Know, who resided at Ford, and dying possessed of it in 1723, was buried in this church, having borne for his arms, *Argent, on a bend, engrailed gules, three trefoils slipt of the first.* He left an only daughter, Mary, who had married Philip, eldest son of Leonard Bartholomew, esq. of Oxenhoath, and dying in 1722, left two sons, Leonard Bartholomew, of Oxenhoath, and John Know Bartholomew, who, by his grandfather's will, became his heir, and succeeded to this estate of Ford. He died without issue in 1757, and by his will bequeathed Ford, among the rest of his estates, to the second son, then unborn, of Sir Francis Geary, bart. admiral of the navy, who had married Mary, his half-sister; which son was born a little posterior to the above devise, being afterwards Sir William Geary, M.P. for this county; and he subsequently possessed Ford, which dwelling is now only used as a farm-house.

THE HAMLET OF BOROUGH GREEN is situated about a mile southward from Wrotham church, on the high road leading from Maidstone to Sevenoak and Westerham, which here

crosses the parish from the westward. Near this road is the manor of WINGFIELD, lying within the borough of that name, which anciently belonged to the family of the Quintin's, in which it remained till Robert Quintin, and Joan, his wife, in the 31st of Edward III., passed it away by fine to Reginald Peckham, gent. of Yaldham. In his descendants it continued to James Peckham, esq. of Yaldham, who, in the beginning of the reign of James I., alienated it to Nicholas Miller, esq. of Crouch, then called Horsenels Crouch, in this parish, who kept his shrievalty there in the 8th of Charles I. He died in 1640, and lies buried in this church, having at his death given both Wingfield and Crouch to Nicholas Miller, his grandson, second son of his eldest surviving son, Sir Nicholas Miller, of Oxenhoath, who was of Crouch, and died possessed of both Wingfield and Crouch in 1693, when he was buried in this church, having had twelve children, five sons and seven daughters.

These estates continued some years afterwards in this family, till they were carried in marriage by a female heir to Mr. Munday, of Derbyshire, who sold them, in 1756, to Sarah viscountess Falkland, who was daughter and heir of Thomas Inwen, esq. of Southwark. She married, first, Henry earl of Suffolk, who died in 1745, by whom she had no issue; and, secondly, in 1752, Lucius Carey, viscount Falkland, by whom she had one son, and several daughters. She died possessed of both Wingfield and Crouch in 1776, and by will devised these estates for life to her husband, Lucius Carey, viscount Falkland, and the remainder in fee to Francis Motley Austin, esq. of Wilmington, who afterwards purchased lord Falkland's interest therein, and ultimately possessed the same.

There is no court held for the manor of Wingfield, and the mansion of Horsenels Crouch is now converted into a farm-house.

About half a mile southward from Wrotham heath, on the road thence to Mereworth walks, is a district wherein there are TWO SMALL HAMLETS, situated on the summit of the hill called GREAT and LITTLE COMP, but more commonly *Camps;* no doubt from having been once made use of as camps, probably by the Romans, the military way running towards their camp at Oldberry, and to Stone street, at a small distance only from these places. This name certainly denotes the origin, as camp, in Saxon, signifies a camp or fortification.

The country here is wild, consisting of rough ground, covered by bushes and small trees, near which, to the southward, lays the great tract of woodland called Comp, and the Herst woods. There was formerly a *chapel* belonging to this district, the remains of which are still visible, being a chapel of ease to Leyborne, and built on a part of the glebe belonging to that rectory, on which account this land, though separated by two parishes intervening, is now esteemed as being within the bounds of Leyborne parish. In the reigns of Elizabeth and James I., Great Comp was the residence of Sir John Howell, descended from a Sussex family.

This estate has been many years possessed by the family of the Lambard's, and became the property of Multon Lambard, esq. of Sevenoak. Lord le Despencer owned a large tract of the Woodland, as did also Sir John Honywood, Mrs. Hughes, and several others.

In rooting up a tree near this place, many years back, vast numbers of small solid pieces of brass were found beneath the roots.

The District of Plaxtool, situated in Haleborough, though now an appendage only to the parish of Wrotham, was made a distinct parish by ordinance of parliament in 1647; and in that state it remained till the restoration in 1660, when it was again united to Wrotham, and so continued at the time of Mr. Hasted.

In this district there is a manor called Sore, which anciently belonged to the family of the Colepeper's, of Preston, in Aylesford.

Walter Colepeper died possessed of the same in the 1st of Edward III., and his descendants continued owners thereof till Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Preston, in Aylesford, alienated it, about the end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, to Nicholas Miller, gent. of this parish; on whose death, in 1621, it devolved to his son, Nicholas Miller, of Crouch, who died in 1640, leaving three sons and four daughters, of whom Nicholas, his eldest surviving son, succeeded to this estate, who was afterwards knighted.

His grandson, Sir Borlase Miller, bart., died without issue in 1714, and was succeeded in this manor by his sister Elizabeth, then wife of Leonard Bartholomew, esq., who possessed the

same in her right. He afterwards resided at Oxenhoath, and left by her three sons, Philip, Leonard, and Humphrey.

Leonard, the second son, afterwards possessed this manor, and married Elizabeth, only daughter and heir of Edmund Watton, esq. of Addington; and his son, Leonard Bartholomew, esq. of Addington place, at length succeeded to this manor, together with that of Badlesmere.

There is an ancient and very remarkable chapel still remaining in the manor house of Sore, which was probably made use of by the inhabitants of this district in general, before that of Plaxtool was erected.

At a small distance southward from Plaxtool street, lies the seat of FAIRLAWN, the house of which is at the extremity of the parish, part of the stables being in that of Shipborne. It was formerly accounted a manor, though it has now long since lost that appellation, having been anciently the estate of the family of the Bavent's, of whom it was afterwards held by that of Colepeper. Walter Colepeper died possessed of the estate in the 1st of Edward III., holding it in *frank fee* of Roger de Bavent, in which name it continued till the latter end of the reign of Henry IV., when it was alienated to one Chowne, whose descendant, John, resided at Fairlawn in the reign of Henry VIII., and bore for his arms, *Sable, three attires of a stag, in pale argent.* His descendants continued to reside here till Sir George Chowne, in order to confine his possessions within Sussex, alienated this seat to Sir Henry Vane, the elder; after which it continued the residence and seat of his descendants, down to William viscount Vane, who dying in 1789, by will gave this property to David Papillon, esq. of Acrise.

One wing of the mansion of Fairlawn was burnt down in 1739, and a new one erected, but before being quite finished, was again destroyed by fire in 1742, and once more rebuilt by Lord Vane.

THE CHAPEL OF PLAXTOOL stands at the west end of the village, and was erected in 1648, but soon after, as previously mentioned, united to that of Wrotham.

WROTHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar*, is as such within the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, dedicated to St. George, is situated on the north side of the town, adjoining the London road, at the foot of the hill. It is a large handsome

structure, consisting of three aisles, a cross aisle, and a large chancel, the windows of the latter having been newly glazed and beautified, some years ago, by the then rector, Dr. John Potter.

The rectory of Wrotham was valued in the king's books at £50 8 1½, the yearly tenths being £5 0 9½. The vicarage was valued at £22 5 10, and the annual tenths at 19s. 10½d.

The parsonage house is a handsome building, on the opposite side of the road westward from the church. The vicarage is still remaining, but presents a very poor building, situated in that part of Wrotham leading to Yaldham.

The extent of the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of this parish, with the chapel of Stansted annexed, is very great, containing a tract of six miles and a half long, whereof Stansted is two miles in length and three in width, independent of which is the chapel of Woodland. There is an exceedingly fine glebe annexed thereto, and the first value of the rectory and vicarage, is, we are informed, upwards of £1000 per annum, of which the latter is computed at £300.

In 1821 there were 408 dwellings in the parish of Wrotham; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 1173, females 1184, making a total of 2357 souls.

Ightham, otherwise *Eightham*, lies westward from Wrotham, and obtained the latter name from the eight boroughs, or hams, within its bounds, viz. *Eightham, Redwell, Ivyhatch, Borough green, St. Clere's, the Moat, Beaulies, and Oldborough.* In the *Textus Roffensis* it is spelt Eiteham.

The parish of Ightham is chiefly situated in the vale between the chalk, and the sand or quarry, hills, although it extends above the former northward. Near the chalk hill, and for some distance southward, the same soil prevails, thence it presents an unfertile deep sand, and at the boundaries, towards Shipborne, a deep clay, and heavy land for tillage. The situation, however, though healthy, is by no means either pleasant or profitable. The parish is narrow, being about a mile in width, but from north to south extends nearly five, from Kingsdown above the hills to Shipborne, its southern boundary. At the foot of the chalk hill, and north-west boundary of this

parish, is the mansion of St. Clere, and not far distant, Yaldham ; about a mile from which is Ightham court, and adjoining, the church and village, situated on the high road from Maidstone to Sevenoak and Westerham, which here crosses this parish by the hamlet of Borough green, and the manor of Oldborough, or Oldberry, as it is now called, with the hill of that name, which belonged to Richard James, esq. of this parish. Near the spot in question, and by Ivyhatch plain, is rough unenclosed ground, consisting, in this and the adjoining parish, of several hundred acres, mostly covered with heath and furze. At the southern extremity of the parish, near Shipborne, and adjoining the grounds of Fairlawn, is the seat of the Moat, situated very low, in a deep and miry soil. A fair is kept annually in this parish, called by the common people, Coxcombe fair.

The Roman *military way* appears to have crossed this parish, from Ofham and Camps, directing its course westward through the district. The names of Oldborough, or Oldberry hill, and Stone street, are convincing proofs of the consequence of this spot in ancient times. At Oldberry hill there are the remains of a *very considerable intrenchment*, without doubt of Roman origin : it is situated on the summit of the hill, but is now so overgrown with wood that it is difficult to trace the lines thereof. It is of an oval form, and, by a very accurate measurement, contains within its bounds the space of 137 acres. On the brow of the hill is an entrance into a cave, which has been long filled up by the sinking of the earth, but there still remains a small passage, which, according to ancient tradition, led to a considerable distance under the hill.

The whole intrenchment seems to have been formerly fortified, according to the nature of the ground, and in the middle are two fine springs of water. The vast size of this area, being larger than that of Keston, in this county, does away all probability of its having been a Roman station, the largest of which, Dr. Horsley observes, is not a tenth part the circuit of the present. It appears to resemble more one of their camps, and might have been their *castra æstiva*, or summer quarters, of which they had several in this county. An intrenchment of a similar form seems to have existed at Oldbury hill, in Wiltshire, which the editor of Camden conceived might possibly have been Danish. There are also remains of a Roman camp at Oldbury, in Gloucester-

shire, where the pass of the Romans over the Severn, mentioned by Antoninus, is, according to Camden, supposed to have existed. At Oldbury, near Manchester, in Warwickshire, are also remains similar to those above adverted to.

Ightham was held, in the reign of Henry III., by Hamo de Crevequer, who died possessed of the property in the 47th year of that reign, leaving Robert, his grandson, his heir. By his wife, Maud de Albrincis, or Averanches, he had also four daughters; Agnes, wife of John de Sandwich; Isolda, who married Nicholas de Lenham; Elene, united to Bertram de Criol; and Isabel, wife of Henry de Gaunt.

Robert de Crevequer left one son, William, who dying without issue, his inheritance devolved to the children of three of the daughters of Hamon de Crevequer, as above mentioned, Agnes, Isolda, and Elene; and, on the division of their inheritance, Ightham seems to have fallen to the share of Nicholas, son of Bertram de Criol, by his wife Elene, above mentioned. He was highly favored by the king, and constituted by him warden of the Cinque Ports, sheriff of Kent, and governor of Rochester castle. By Joan, his wife, daughter and sole heir of William de Aubervill, he had Nicholas de Criol, who died in the reign of Edward I. possessed of this manor, which his heirs alienated to William de Inge, who held it in the 1st of Edward II., having procured *free warren* for his lands in Eyghtham, and was made one of the justices of the Common Pleas. He bore for his arms, *Or, a chevron, vert.* On his death, in the 15th year of that reign, A.D. 1286, Joan his daughter, married to Eudo, or Ivo la Zouch, son of lord William Zouch, of Harringworth, became entitled to this estate.

His descendants continued in the possession of the manor till the reign of Henry VII., when it was alienated to Sir Robert Read, sergeant at law, who died in the reign of Henry VIII., leaving by Margaret, one of the daughters and coheirs of John Alphew, esq. of Chidingstone, one son, Edmund, who died before him, in 1501; and four daughters, who became his coheirs. On the partition of their inheritance, this manor was allotted to Sir Thomas Willoughby, who had married Bridget, the eldest daughter; and he left a son and heir, Robert, who alienated this manor to William James, third son of Roger James, of London, who was of Dutch extraction, and coming

into England in the latter end of the reign of Henry VIII., was first, as being a descendant of Jacob van Haestricht, called, after the Dutch fashion, Roger Jacobs, and afterwards Roger James. This Roger James, otherwise Haestricht, had several sons and one daughter. Of the former, Roger, the eldest, was of Upminster, in Essex; William was of Ightham; John, of Woodnesborough, in this county; and George, of Mallendine in Cliff, near Rochester. William James, the third son of Roger, resided at Ightham court; as did his son, William, who was a man much trusted in the usurpation under Oliver Cromwell, as one of the committee members for the sequestration of the estates of the loyalists. He left by his wife, daughter of Demertrius James, esq. of Essex, two sons; Richard, his heir; and Demertrius, late rector of this parish. He died in 1780, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Richard James, esq. of Ightham court, who was possessor of this manor. The original coat of arms of the family of Haestricht was, *Argent, two bars, crenelle gules in chief, three pheons, sable;* which arms, *without the pheons*, are borne by the several branches of the James's, quartered with *Argent, a chevron between three fer de molins, transverse sable.*

St. Clere's, otherwise *West Aldham*, situated in the borough of the latter name, is a manor and seat in the north-west part of this parish, adjoining Kemsing, which was formerly called by the latter name only, and possessed by a family of the same denomination, which bore for its arms, *Azure, a pile or.*

Sir Thomas de Aldham was owner of this property in the reign of Richard I., and accompanied that prince to the siege of Ascalon, in Palestine. His descendant, Sir Thomas de Aldham, held this manor in the reign of Edward II., and dying without issue male, his three daughters became his coheirs; the eldest of whom married — Newborough, called in Latin *De Novo Burgo*, of Dorsetshire; Margery married Martin Peckham; and Isolda was the wife of John St. Clere: upon the division of whose inheritance, this manor fell to the share of John St. Clere, who possessed it in right of his wife.

John St. Clere, written in Latin deeds *De Sancto Claro*, died possessed of the estate at the beginning of the reign of Edward III., leaving Isolda, his wife, surviving; on whose death, John St. Clere, their son, succeeded to this manor, which, from the family in question, acquired the name of Aldham St. Clere's,

and in process of time, was called by the latter name only. Their descendants continued in possession of this manor till the beginning of the reign of Henry VII., when it was alienated to Henry Lovel, who left two daughters his coheirs; Agnes, married to John Empson; and Elizabeth, to Anthony Windsor.

John Empson conveyed his moiety, in the reign of Henry VIII., to Sir Thomas Bulleyn; and Anthony Windsor passed away his portion by sale to Richard Farmer, who purchasing the other of Sir Thomas Bulleyn, became possessed of the whole of the manor of St. Clere's. In the same reign Richard Farmer conveyed it to George Multon, esq. of Hadlow, who removed hither. He bore for his arms, *Or, three bars vert,* being the same shield as that claimed by Sir John Multon, lord Egremond, whose heir general married Lord Fitz-Walter. His grandson, Robert Multon, esq. was of St. Clere's, and alienated this manor and estate, in the reign of Charles I., to Sir John Sidley, knight and baronet, a younger branch of the Sidley's of Southfleet and Aylesford, in this county, who erected a mansion here for his residence. He was descended from William Sidley, of Southfleet, who lived in the reign of Edward VI., and left three sons; of whom, John was ancestor of those of Southfleet and Aylesford; Robert was the second son; and Nicholas, the third male heir, who left one son, Isaac Sidley; and he was of Great Chart, created a baronet in 1621, whose son, Sir John Sidley, knight and baronet, purchased St. Clere's, as above mentioned. He left two sons, Isaac and John, who both succeeded to the title. The eldest son, Sir Isaac Sidley, bart., possessed the estate, and was of St. Clere's; as was his son, Sir Charles, who dying without issue in 1702, was buried in Ightham church. By his will he devised this manor to his uncle, John, who succeeded him in title, with remainder to his eldest son, in tail male; however, Sir Charles having been, for some time previous to his death, in a state of mental imbecility, as well as under undue influence, Sir John Sidley contested the validity of the testamentary paper, and it was set aside by a sentence of the prerogative-court of Canterbury.

Soon after, Sir John and his son, George Sidley, entered into an agreement, whereby Sir John waved his right as heir at law, as well as his further right to contest the will. In consequence of this, an Act of Parliament was obtained for settling in trus-

tees the manor of West Aldham, or St. Clere's, that they might be sold for the purposes of the agreement, which were to convey them to William Evelyn, esq., fifth son of George Evelyn, of Nutfield, in Surrey, who afterwards resided here, and was, in 1723, sheriff for the county.

He married, first, the daughter and heir of William Glanvill, esq., and, in the reign of George I., obtained license to use the name and arms of Glanvill only, the latter being, *Argent, a chief indented, azure.* By her he had an only daughter, Frances, married to the Hon. Edward Boscawen, brother to viscount Falmouth, an admiral of the British fleet. His second wife was daughter of Jones Raymond, esq., who died in 1761, by whom he had Glanvill Evelyn, esq., who, on his father's death in 1766, succeeded to St. Clere's. In 1757 he was sheriff, and chosen a representative in Parliament for Hythe, in this county.

He married, about the year 1760, a daughter and coheir of Thomas Borret, esq. of Shoreham, by whom he had a son, William Evelyn, who was killed by a fall from his horse at Blandford lodge, near Woodstock, at the age of twenty-one, being unmarried; when his sister, Frances, became his heir, who espoused, in 1782, Alexander Hume, esq. of Hendley, in Surrey, brother of Sir Abraham Hume, who, in 1797, had the royal licence to assume and use the name and arms of Evelyn only; he afterwards resided at St. Clere's.

The Moat is another borough in this parish, in which is the seat and manor of that name, lying at the southern extremity, near Shipborne, which, in the reign of Henry II., was in the possession of Ivo de Haut, and his descendant, Sir Henry de Haut, died possessed of it under Edward III. His son, Sir Edmund, died during the life of his father, so that his grandson, Nicholas, became his heir, and succeeded him in the possession of this estate. He left two sons, William, who was of Bishopsborne, and Richard, who succeeded him in this estate; but having engaged, as well as others of this county, with the duke of Buckingham, in favor of the earl of Richmond, he was beheaded at Pontefract, and his estates confiscated. This manor was soon after granted by Richard III. to Robert Brakenbury, lieutenant of the Tower, who only possessed the Moat for a short period, being slain, with King Richard, at the fatal battle of Bosworth; and on the earl of Richmond attaining the crown,

being attainted by an Act, although his two daughters were restored in blood, yet the Moat was immediately conferred on the heirs of its former owner, Richard Haut. The attainder of the latter being also reversed, in their descendants it remained till the latter end of the reign of Henry VII., when it appears, by an old court roll, to have been possessed by Sir Richard Clement, who dying without any legitimate issue, his brother, John Clement, and his sister, Agnes, became his coheirs; the former, however, succeeded to the entire fee of this estate.

John Clement died without issue male, leaving an only daughter and heir, Anne, who carried the Moat in marriage to Hugh Pakenham; and he, in the reign of Edward VI., joined with Sir William Sydney, who had married Anne, his only daughter, in the sale of this manor to Sir John Allen. He was of the Mercers' company, and a man of the most extensive liberality, having presented to the city of London a rich collar of gold, to be worn by the succeeding lord mayors; and 500 marks, as a stock for sea coal, with the rents of those lands he had purchased of the king, to the poor of London for ever. During his life, he also contributed bountifully to the hospitals and prisons of the metropolis, and erected the Mercers' chapel, in Cheapside, wherein his remains were buried, the corpse being afterwards moved into the body of the church of St. Thomas of Acon, and the chapel converted into shops by the Mercers' company. He bore for his arms, *In three roundlets, as many talbots passant, on a chief, a lion passant, guardant between two anchors.*

He left a son and heir, Sir Christopher Allen, whose son and heir, Charles Allen, esq., succeeded his father in this estate, and resided at the Moat, which he afterwards sold, at the latter end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, to Sir William Selby, younger brother of Sir John Selby, of Branxton, in Northumberland. He resided here at the latter part of his life, and died, greatly advanced in years, in 1611, unmarried, and was buried in this church, bearing for his arms, *Barry of twelve pieces, or and azure.* He by his will gave this estate to his nephew, Sir William Selby, who resided here, and died without issue, having devised the Moat, for the sake of the name, to Mr. George Selby, of London, who resided here, and was sheriff in the reign of Charles I.; he bore for his arms, *Barry of eight pieces, or and sable.* He died in 1667, leaving several sons and daughters;

of whom, William, the eldest, succeeded. He married Susan, daughter of Sir John Rainey, bart. of Wrotham, by whom he had several children; John, the eldest, being of the Moat, who left two sons, William, who succeeded him in this seat and estate at Ightham, and John Selby, esq., who was of Pennis, in Fawkham, and died unmarried.

William Selby resided at the Moat, of which he died possessed in 1773, leaving his wife surviving, who possessed this seat and resided here. She died in 1788, and her only son, William Selby, esq. of Pennis, dying in 1777, as also his only daughter, Elizabeth Borough Selby, this seat, with her other estates in this county, devolved to John Brown, esq., who afterwards assumed the name of Selby, and resided at the Moat.

The park, called Ightham park, has been already mentioned under the parish of Wrotham, to which we refer the reader.

It appears by the visitation of 1619, that there was a branch of the family of the Suliard's, of Brasted, then residing in this parish. John Gull also lived in this parish in the reign of Henry VIII., and died here in 1547.

IGHTHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar* of the archbishop, is, as such, within the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, dedicated to St. Peter, has an arch on the north side containing a tomb of freestone, having thereon a very ancient figure, at full length, of a man in armour, ornamented with a rich belt, sword, and dagger, his head resting on two cushions, and a lion at his feet; over his whole breast are his arms, viz. *a lion rampant, ermine double queued.* This is supposed to be the tomb of Sir Thomas Cawne, who married Lora, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Morant. He was originally from Staffordshire, and most probably died without issue, when his widow married James Peckham, esq. of Yaldham. His arms, empaling those of Morant, were in one of the windows of this church.

This rectory was valued in the king's books at £15 16 8 yearly, the tenths being £1 11 8. It was afterwards estimated at about £200 per annum.

The patronage of the living appears to have been always accounted an appendage to the manor of Ightham, and was the property of Richard James, esq. of Ightham court.

In 1821, there were 158 dwellings in the parish of Ightham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 448, females 419, making a total of 867 souls.

Southward from Ightham lies Shipborne, called in the *Textus Roffensis* Scriburna. The chief part of this parish is below the sand hills, and consequently in that part of the county called the Weald. The village is situated at a small distance southward from the foot of the hill round Shipborne green, having the church at the west side; while, a little farther westward, near the boundary, is *Budd's green*. On the rise of the hill stands the mansion of Fairlawn, with its offices, and a great portion of the grounds, which are within this parish, where the soil is of clay, and heavy for tillage at the southern part, while about the hill, it is composed of sand and rock stone, there being some coppice wood at the south-east. The district is deep and miry at all times, and extremely unpleasant, either as a spot to reside at, or travel through.

An annual fair is held here, on the 1st of September.

John de Say, in the reign of Henry III., held in Siburne, of the earl of Gloucester, one knight's fee, as well as the fifth part of one, which soon after passed to Adam de Bavent, the principal possessions of whose family lay in Sussex and Surrey.

Adam de Bavent, in the 12th of Edward I., obtained a grant of *free warren* for his lands in Shipborne, and a weekly market, in the 28th year of the same reign. This personage was with the king at the siege of Carlaverock, in Scotland, so frequently before adverted to.

Hawis, widow of Sir Roger de Bavent, his descendant, in the 36th of Edward III., released to the prioress and convent of the priory of Dartford, then newly erected, all her right in the manor of Shipborne, which that king, by his patent of endowment, in his 46th year, confirmed to the monks, together with all knights' fees, and other things appertaining thereto.

It continued in that priory till the general dissolution, under Henry VIII., who, in his 36th year, granted it to Sir Ralph Fane and Anthony Tutsham, esq., to hold of the king *in capite*,

by knight's service; soon after which, Anthony Tutsham released all his right and interest therein to Sir Ralph Fane.

He had been knighted at the siege of Bolougne, in 1544, and afterwards, for his valour at the battle of Musselborough, in the 1st of Edward VI., was made a knight banneret; but in the 6th year of that reign, having warmly espoused the interests of the duke of Somerset, he was accused of being his accomplice, and in consequence hanged upon Tower hill. After his death, without issue, these manors, together with the lands and chapel of Shipborne, passed into the possession of Henry Fane, great grandson of Henry Fane, of Hilden, in Tunbridge, who was grandfather of Sir Ralph Fane, above mentioned.

Henry Fane, esq. was of Hadlow, and after the decease of his father, being engaged in the conspiracy of Sir Thomas Wyatt, a circumstance previously mentioned, he was attainted and pardoned, when he had a grant of these manors and chapel of Shipborne from Queen Mary. He died in 1582, being the 25th of Elizabeth.

Henry Fane, his grandson, assumed the name of Vane, the ancient nomination of his ancestors, which has been ever since adopted by his descendants. In the 17th of James I., he was knighted at Whitehall, from which time he acted a conspicuous part in public affairs, and purchased of Sir George Chawne THE MANSION of Fairlawn.

Not long after, his persevering conduct in forwarding the prosecution of Lord Strafford, who had offended him by obtaining the title of baron Raby, displeased the king, who removed him from all his places; wherefore Sir Henry, from that period, concurred in all the malicious designs of the enemies of that unfortunate monarch; however, ultimately finding himself an object of contempt to those who had made use of him, he retired to his seat at Raby castle, in the bishopric of Durham, where he died in 1654. He left several sons and daughters; of whom, Henry, became his heir; while George was of Long Melford, in Durham.

Henry Vane, esq. succeeded his father in his estate at Shipborne, having been educated at Geneva, and imbibed a bitter prejudice, as well against all regal government as the heirarchy of the church, which being heightened by the king granting from

his family the barony of Raby, he associated with the discontented persons of that period, and became one of the most inveterate members of the independent republican faction. On the restoration of Charles II., he was excepted in the general pardon, and committed to prison; when being tried and convicted of high treason, he was executed on Tower hill in 1662. Thomas Vane, esq., his eldest son, succeeded his father in his estates in this parish, and married Frances, daughter of Sir Thomas Liddel, of Ravensworth, in Durham, and dying without issue, his estates devolved to his brother, Christopher Vane, esq., who was of Fairlawn, and knighted by Charles II. In 1688 he was made, by King James II., of his privy council, and in the 10th of William III., A.D. 1699, created lord Barnard, of Barnard castle, in the bishopric of Durham.

He married Elizabeth, daughter of Gilbert Hollis, earl of Clare, sister of John duke of Newcastle, by whom he left two sons, Gilbert and William, and a daughter, Grace. He died at Fairlawn in 1723, and was buried in the new church of Shipborne, which he had built, when Gilbert, his eldest son, succeeded him in the title and estates in the north; while William, his second son, inherited those in Shipborne, Plaxtool, and others in this county.

The arms of the several branches of the Vane's are *three gauntlets*, though differently borne; the earl of Westmoreland bearing, *Azure, three dexter gauntlets, with their backs affrontee, or*; as did lord viscount Vane, a descendant of the same branch. The earl of Darlington bears, *Azure, three sinister gauntlets, with their backs affrontee, or; on a canton ermine, a pile sable, charged with a mullet of five points, argent.*

William Vane, esq., the second son, was of Fairlawn, and chosen to serve in Parliament for Durham in 1708, and in 1720 was created viscount Vane, and baron of Duncannon, of Tyrone, in Ireland. He died suddenly of apoplexy, at Fairlawn, in 1734, having, on the Friday previous, been declared duly elected to serve in Parliament for this county.

William Hollis Vane, his only surviving son, became his father's heir, and succeeded him in the title and estates. He married Frances, daughter of Francis Hawes, esq., in 1720, who was widow of Lord William Hamilton, brother of the duke of

that name, by whom he had no issue; and dying in 1789, gave these manors by will to David Papillon, esq. of Acrise.

Budds is a hamlet in this parish, situated about a mile westward from Shipborne church, where a family of the name of Collins formerly dwelt. It subsequently became the property of George Children, esq. of Tunbridge.

Shipborne is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to St. Giles's, is a neat fabric, and was entirely rebuilt by Christopher lord Barnard. It was anciently esteemed as a chapel to the church of Tunbridge, and paid 6d. *chrism* rent to the mother church of the diocese.

This chapel, now esteemed as a *curacy*, is not in charge in the king's books, and pays a *feefarm* rent of 8s. yearly to the crown.

In 1821 there were sixty-seven dwellings in the parish of Shipborne; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 210, females 192, making a total of 402 souls.

THE HUNDRED OF LARKFIELD

LIES the next northward from that of Maidstone, adjoining on the opposite side to the liberty of Rochester. It is called in Domesday, *Laurochesfel*, and in some later records, *Laverkefeld*.

It contains the parishes of WOLDHAM, BURHAM, AYLESFORD, ALLINGTON, DITTON, SNODLAND, PADLESWORTH, BIRLING, RYARSH, LEYBORNE, EAST MALLING, WEST MALLING, OFHAM, ADDINGTON, and TROTTESCLIVE.

But part of Aylesford and West Malling are exempt from the constables of this hundred; the former as being ancient demesne, and the latter, as having a constable and distinct liberty of its own.

A small portion of Aylesford is also within the hundred and liberty of Maidstone. Part of the parishes of Hunton and Horsemonden are likewise within this hundred.

SOUTHWARD to the parish of St. Margaret, and liberty of Rochester, lies WOLDHAM, written in the Saxon charters, *Wuldaham*, in the succeeding Latin records, *Vuldeham*, and in that of Domesday, *Oldeham*.

This place is supposed to have derived its name from the Saxon words, *wolde*, a plain open down, or hill, exempt from trees or wood; and *ham*, a village or dwelling. It is also described in several later grants by the name of *Woldeham Monachorum*, from its having appertained to the monks of Rochester.

THE PARISH OF WOLDHAM lies on the eastern banks of the river Medway, about two miles from the city of Rochester. The village, with the church, is situated at the foot of the hills, very low, and almost close to the Medway, (which constitutes the western boundary of this parish,) and, from its contiguity to the marshes, is far from healthy. In the village is *Woldham house*, having been erected by Captain Trevor, and afterwards the residence of George Guy, esq.; and, about a mile northward, in a

situation equally low, is the house of Starkeys, which, though now only a farm, has still a handsome appearance, being a strong building of stone, with Gothic windows, and doorcases of ashlar stone. Hence, as well as from the back of the village, the hills rise to a great height eastward, as far as Nashenden, consisting for the most part of unenclosed downs, the soil being chalk, covered with flints, which render it unfertile and dreary. Many years back, in digging a trench from Woldham house, up to the open downs, there were discovered several instruments, of an antique form, like a wedge, or axe, usually called *celts*, which were chiefly composed of brass.

Ethelbert, king of Kent, in 751, first gave Vuldeham to the church of St. Andrew, in Rochester; but sometime after it was separated, and several kings possessed it one after another, till the time of King Edmund, who began his reign in 941, of whom one Ælfstan Heahstanine bought it at the price of 112 marks of gold, and £30 in money. On his death, Ælfege his son succeeded to the property, who by will, made in the presence of Archbishop Dunstan, about the year 970, made a distribution of all his effects, whereof he devised one part to Christ church, in Canterbury, another to that of Rochester, and the remaining third part to his wife. Notwithstanding this, one Leofsunu, who had married his nephew's widow, endeavoured to set aside this will, equally with the testimony of the archbishop, and took possession, but the estates were recovered from him in a solemn trial, held at Erhede by the archbishop for that purpose, and on his division of these estates, Vuldeham seems to have been that portion allotted to the church of St. Andrew, Rochester. King Ethelbert, in 995, confirmed Wuldaham, (which then contained *six mansæ*, called by the Kentish men sulings,) to St. Andrew's, and bishop Godwin, and it was accordingly entered in Domesday under the general title of lands belonging to the bishop of Rochester.

Bishop Gundulph, who was elected to the see of Rochester, in the time of the Conqueror, on the division of the revenues of his church, allotted this manor, with its appendages, to the monks, for the use of their refectory, instead of that of Freckenham, in Suffolk; but bishop Gilbert de Glanvill, on his coming to the see of Rochester, in 1185, claimed this manor, among others which had been allotted to them by bishop

Gundulph, as belonging to the maintenance of his table, wherefore the monks were at length obliged to submit; and, in consequence, although he took the church of Woldham from them, they continued in possession of the manor till the dissolution of the priory under Henry VIII.

In the reigns of Kings Edward I. and II. the bishop of Rochester claimed several liberties as belonging to all the fees and lands of the church, as did the prior of Rochester in the 21st of the former reign. Edward I., in his 23d year, granted to the prior and convent *free warren* in all their demesne lands of this manor, so that no one should hunt, or take any thing on them which belonged to warren, without their permission, on forfeiture of £10.

The manor of Woldham, on the dissolution of the priory of Rochester, under Henry VIII., was surrendered to the king, who settled it on his new founded dean and chapter of Rochester, with whom this inheritance has continued.

There is a court-leet and court-baron held for this manor.

In the *Custumale Roffense*, frequent mention is made of a watermill in Woldham, belonging to the above manor, and an ancient custom prevailed, obliging every house to send one man for a day, annually, to clear the passage, ditch, and mill-pond, that the water might flow easily to turn the mill; and there were also two particular acres of land, the occupiers of which were to clean the ditch communicating from the river to the mill-pond.

There were several small parcels of land, granted at different times, to various persons, by the prior and convent of Rochester, lying in Magna, and Parva Woldham, being two divisions of this parish, a more particular account whereof may be seen in the *Registrum Roffense*.

Rings is a manor in this parish, which extends into that adjoining, of St. Margaret's, Rochester, and was formerly in the possession of Robert de Woldham, after which it became separated into moieties, one of which was possessed by the eminent family of the Cosington's, in Aylesford, and the other by that of the Carter's. From the former line, that moiety passed in the reign of Henry VI. to William Whorne, afterwards knighted, and lord mayor of London, who built Whorne's place, in Cookstone, where he resided; the latter moiety passed about the same time to the Laurence's, who by a mutual deed of conveyance, alien-

ated their joint interest in this manor to William Hadde, of Meriam court, in Frinsted. He, in the 36th of that reign, gave it to his second son, John Hadde, whose descendant sold it to Thomas Roydon, esq., of Roydon hall, in East Peckham, who under Henry VIII. procured the disgavelment of his lands. From the Roydon's this manor passed to the Brockhull's, of Aldington, in Thurnham; whose descendant, Henry Brockhull, alienated it to Sir John Leveson, otherwise Lewson, of Whorne's place, in Cookstone; after which it passed in like manner as that seat, by sale, to the family of the Marsham's, in which line it continued down to the Right Hon. lord Charles Romney.

STARKEYS is a manor here, lying in the district of this parish called LITTLE WOLDHAM, formerly known by the name of the manor of Lyttlyhall and Woldham.

In the reign of Edward III. it appears to have been in the possession of Richard Byset, and he held it as one quarter of a knight's fee in Parva Woldham, who afterwards passed it away to Henry de Bokeland, from which name it was alienated to Henry Newman, by which family it was held in the 20th year of that reign, of the bishop of Rochester, as above mentioned. His descendant, Henry, conveyed it to Humphrey Starkey, descended from those of Wrenbury and Oulton, in Cheshire, who bore for his arms, *Sable, a stork proper.* He was recorder of London under Richard III., chief baron of the Exchequer, and also knighted during that reign.

He built a good house here, the mansion being chiefly of stone, though formerly much larger than in the time of Mr. Hasted, together with a handsome chapel on the manor, a fragment whereof is only left, at the east angle of the house, which thence, as well as from his residence here, acquired the name of Starkeys. He died possessed of this manor, and was buried at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, in London; leaving four daughters his coheirs; on the division of whose inheritance, this manor became the share of Sir John Rainsford, who had married Anne, youngest of those heiresses. His son, of the same name, was high in favor with Henry VIII., and one of his privy council; who alienated this estate to the Lambe's, whence it was passed to Sir John Levison, or Lewson; from which name it was sold, together with the manor of Rings, before mentioned, in the reign of

Charles I., to John Marsham, esq., whose descendant, Lord Romney, afterwards possessed the same.

Sellers is a manor that lies partly in this parish, and a portion in Burham, which, with the mansion called the *Hall*, otherwise *Woldham hall*, was held in the reign of King John by Robert de Woldham Magna, as one quarter of a knight's fee, of the bishop of Rochester, soon after which the possessors of this manor were thence denominated *At-Hall*, and in Latin deeds, *De Aula*. Robert le Neve was owner in the reign of Edward I., and held it by the above tenure, whose heirs sold it to John Atte Celar, written also At-Celeve in the reign of Edward III., whose descendant, Warine Atte Celar, or De Celario, held this manor in the 30th of the same reign, when continuing in his descendants, it ultimately acquired the denomination of Sellers, as they then began to spell their name. They bore for their arms, *Argent, a saltier between four mullets, gules*, which shield was blazoned in a window of this church, as also in another of the mansion-house of the manor.

The manor of Sellers remained in this family till a female heir conveyed it in marriage, in the reign of Henry VII., to John Beuly, gent., who bore for his arms, *Argent, a chevron between three griffins' heads, erased, sable;* and continuing in his descendants, it obtained the name of Beuly's court, though the mansion-house itself was called Hall place, or Woldham hall. It continued in this family till 1693, when it was alienated to the Manley's, descended from those of Chester, in which name it remained down to Mr. William Manley, who resided there, and died in 1779, leaving three sons coheirs in gavelkind, by whom it was sold to Joseph Brooke, esq., when on the death of his widow, in 1796, it passed by his will to the Rev. John Kenward Shaw, of Town Malling, who assumed the name of Brooke, and possessed this estate. A court-baron is held for this manor.

Woldham is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, a small building, has a low square tower, whereon formerly stood a steeple; it is situated at the south-west extremity of the village, and dedicated to All Saints. The steeple of this church, and a great part of the fabric, were built by Stephen Slegge of this parish,

who was sheriff of Kent in the 20th of Henry VI., and gave by will 100 marks to be expended thereon.

The church of Woldham was a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly certified value of £30, the annual tenths being £1 8 7½. This rectory in 1716 was augmented by Queen Anne's bounty, the sum of £200 having been also contributed by different persons. In 1708 there were sixty-five communicants, the bishop of Rochester being patron of this rectory.

In 1821, there were twenty-eight dwellings in the parish of Woldham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 93, females 83, making a total of 176 souls.

Burham is the next parish southward from Woldham, on the eastern bank of the Medway, written in Domesday *Boreham*, and in ancient grants, *Burgham*.

This parish is situated nearly the same as the preceding, stretching along the eastern bank of the Medway, whence from the low land, the hills rise eastward to a great height. The soil is poor, chiefly consisting of chalk, covered by flint; and a great portion is unenclosed pasture land, much covered with low bushes, heath, and furze; usually called Burham downs. The court lodge, with the church at a little distance, stands close to the river; a low but rather more healthy situation than Woldham, in consequence of the marshes being less in number, and not so offensive as those lower down the river. About a mile distant from the church, northward, is the hamlet of Scaborough, equally contiguous to the river; and at the southern boundary of the parish, but on higher ground, on the road leading from Rochester to Aylesford, are the two hamlets of Great and Little Culing, near the former of which there are several pits of potter's clay.

There was formerly in this parish, at a place called Haly garden, a spring highly reverenced by the common people, for the virtues and sanctity attributed to it, whither pilgrimages were performed from all the neighbouring parts. In the 17th of Richard II. the Friars Carmelites of the adjoining parish of

Aylesford obtained the king's letters patent, granting to them this spring, and the surrounding land, in order to construct an aqueduct for the use of their house.

The liberty of the corporation of Maidstone extends on the river as far as a piece of land, called Hawkeswood, in this district. The parish was anciently bound to contribute to the repair of the fourth pier of Rochester bridge.

This place, before the Conquest, was in the possession of Earl Leofwine, who, as well as his brother, King Harold, lost their lives at the fatal battle of Hastings. After that event, William the Conqueror gave it to Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record.

Ralph de Curva Spina, or Crookthorne, resided at Comford park, in the neighbouring parish of Birling, which manor he also possessed, and bore for his arms, in imitation of Simon de Abrinces, or Averanches, of whom, as his chief lord, he held several estates, *Azure, five chevrons, or, a label of five points, gules.* His descendants continued owners of Burham till the reign of Henry II., when they were succeeded by the family of the Magminot's, one of which, Walkelin de Magminot, dying without issue, his sister Alice carried this, and other large possessions in the county, to her husband, Geoffrey de Say. His descendant, Geoffrey, in the reign of Edward III., obtained a view of frankpledge, and other liberties, within all his demesne lands of this manor; and, having been frequently summoned to parliament, died in the 33d year of the above prince, holding this manor *in capite*, and by the service of repairing a part of Rochester bridge, and a particular house in Dover castle.

After the above period, this manor passed in like manner as Cowdham, by a female heir of the above name, into the family of the Fiennes, afterwards Lords Dacres; and again, by another female heir of the Fiennes, in marriage to Sampson Lennard, esq., of Chevening, whose son and heir, Henry Lennard, in his mother's right, Lord Dacres, afterwards suffered a common recovery of this manor, and died in the 14th of James I. He left three sons, and four daughters; of the former, Richard the eldest, succeeded him as Lord Dacres; Edward died young, and Fynes, the third son, possessed this manor by the will of his father. He left a son Robert, who, in the reign of Charles I. alienated this manor of Burham, to Francis Barnham, esq. of

Hollingborne, and Mr. John Maplesden, gent., who, accordingly, as trustees, in the reign of Charles II. alienated it to Sir John Banks, bart., on whose death, in 1699, without issue male, his daughter Elizabeth carried it in marriage to the Hon. Heneage Finch, second son of the earl of Nottingham. He was afterwards created baron of Guernsey, and, on the accession of George I., earl of Aylesford, after which this property descended to his great grandson, the earl of Aylesford, who possessed the manor.

BURHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, a small edifice, having a large tower at the west end, is dedicated to the Virgin; it stands near the banks of the Medway, and contains some good specimens of stained glass in the windows.

This structure was anciently part of the possessions of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem.

Leonard de Tibert, prior general of the above hospital, in the reign of Henry III., granted the appropriation of this church, and all its appurtenances, to Nicholas de Hales, who was prior of the church of Clerkenwell, in London, to hold the same freely for ever.

The vicarage was a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly value of £46, the annual tenths being 16s. In 1708 there were ninety-eight communicants.

In 1606 the patronage of this vicarage was vested in the king and Lord Buckhurst, by turns; and, about 1630, in the king and Lord Abergavenny. In 1760 it was the property of Mr. Franklyn, soon after which it was purchased by Mr. George Gordon, of Rochester, wine merchant; whose heirs sold it to the Rev. Joseph Milner of Preston hall, in Aylesford, who dying in 1784, his widow became entitled to the same.

In 1821 there were forty-five dwellings in the parish of Burham; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 129, females 107, making a total of 236 souls.

Southward from BURHAM lies AYLESFORD, a name variously spelt by our ancient historians. The Saxon Chronicle, written about the time of Bede, calls it *Ægelesford;* Nennius, the British historian, who flourished about the year 620, says the

Drawn by Bartlett.

AYLESFORD CHURCH & BRIDGE

Saxons named it *Episford*, and the Britons, *Sathenegabail*, from the overthrow of the Saxons at this place. Asserius, who lived in the time of Alfred, calls it, *Ægelsthness*, as does the Saxon historian, *Æthelmend*. In the Domesday record it is written *Elesford*, by later writers, *Aillesford*, and now most commonly *Aylesford*.

This parish is pleasantly situated, about thirty-two miles from London, and far more healthy than those last mentioned. The river Medway, which flows through the district northwestward, in its course upward from Woldham and Burham, becomes a pellucid stream of fresh water, the tide being weak, and losing its saline qualities, is divested of those noisome smells arising from the salt marshes when abandoned by the tide. The river is here encompassed by a range of pleasant fertile meadows, greatly conducive both to health and profit. The soil in this parish, from its great extent, is varied: about the village, and on the southern side of the river, consisting of loam spread over the quarry stone; to the northward it presents an unfertile chalk; and to the east, a deep sand.

The village of Aylesford is situated on the northern banks of the Medway, and at the back the ground rises suddenly very high, insomuch so, that the church and cemetery, adjoining to which is the vicarage, stand higher even than the tops of the houses below. About a quarter of a mile westward, close to the river, is the priory, or friary, as it is now called, a great portion of which remains entire, as it stood anterior to the dissolution, being converted into the different apartments of a mansion, and requisite offices belonging to the same. The adjoining grounds were formerly imparked, much of the paling being visible; but for some years this has been made arable, and separated into different enclosures. At a small distance northward is the manor house of Tottington, the surrounding moat being still apparent. Hence the ground rises to the high chalk hill, on the summit whereof is the noted monument, called Kits Coty house, which well-known cromlech is commonly supposed to have been the burial-place of Catigern. It is composed of four huge unwrought stones, three standing on their ends, and inclining inward to support the fourth, which, lying transversely upon the top, leaves an open space below. The height of the stone on the south side is eight feet, the breadth seven and a

half, the thickness about two feet, and the weight eight tons. That on the north is near seven feet high, and somewhat more in breadth, its thickness two feet, and weight about eight tons and a half. The centre stone is very irregular, but the length, as well as breadth, appears to be about five feet, the thickness fourteen inches, and weight about two tons. The upper stone, or impost, is also very irregular, the utmost length presenting nearly twelve feet, its breadth, nine and a quarter, thickness, two feet, and the weight about ten tons and a half. The width of the recess beneath is nine feet, at the summit seven and a half, and the height, from the ground to the covering stone, nine feet.

About seventy yards towards the north-west, was formerly another single stone, similar to those forming this *cromlech*, which, it is conjectured once stood upright, but has since been broken and taken away.

About 500 yards south by east from Kits Coty house, has been another *Cromlech*, consisting of eight or ten stones, lying in a confused heap, the same having been thrown down about the beginning of the last century, by order of the proprietor then possessing the land, whose intention was to have forwarded these stones in order to pave the garrison at Sheerness ; but that design was frustrated, owing to the excessive hardness of the material. Still nearer to Aylesford, is a remarkable stone, called by Dr. Stukely the *coffin*, from its shape, the length being about fourteen feet, breadth six, and the thickness two feet.

Many disputes have arisen in regard to the real purpose of these *cromlechs*, and more particularly that of Kits Coty house. The long-established opinion as to its having served as the monument of Catigern, was first opposed by Mr. Colebrooke, of the Society of Antiquaries, who is inclined to believe it the tomb of Horsa ; and, in contradiction of the general tradition, removed the burial-place of Catigern to the *Druidical circle* at Addington, about eight miles farther to the west, on the opposite side of the Medway. His conjectures, however, have gained but few proselytes, and the received opinion still inclines to the belief, that the Saxon chief was buried at Horsted, about three miles from Rochester, which place both Philipot and Lambarde assert derived its name from Horsa We are certainly inclined to think that there is something in the name connected

Drawn by G. Shepherd

Engraved by S. Lacey

KITTS COTTY HOUSE.

NEAR AYLESFORD.

KENT.

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with Horsa, who having been slain, received his funeral rites at the latter place, as there were, within memory, scattered remains of many huge stones, which, owing to tempests and other incidental circumstances, have been demolished, and which no doubt formed, in remote ages, the figure of a monument to shade the ashes of Horsa; as did those at *Cits Cot house*, above Alresford, guard the dust, and point out to posterity the memory, of the valiant Briton, Catigern. The spot where Horsa was interred is now in a wood at a short distance from the farm, with nothing to point out the place but an old tree. Several celts, chiefly formed of brass, antique spurs, old swords, and other antiquities, have been found at different periods in digging on the downs, in the neighbourhood of Aylesford.

Distant about two fields southward from Kits Coty house, in the bottom, more contiguous to Aylesford, is a heap of the same kind of stones, some of which are partly upright, and others scattered in a circle around, to the number of nine or ten; those nearly upright, with a larger one lying across, appear to have once formed a structure like that of Kits Coty house, while it is obvious that it fronted the same aspect.

This monument of antiquity is reported to have been demolished by some persons digging a trench beneath, in expectation of finding either treasure or some remains of antiquity, wherefore the trench being left open, an elm tree sprang up, which by degrees raised the stones and threw them to the ground. Some years back, there were found in this field a spur of very antique form, with a remarkable long sprig and large rowel, together with the handle and small part of the blade of a very ancient sword.

We should be inclined to believe, if it were not from the similarity of the name, and the many respectable opinions concerning it, that Kits Coty house and the last-mentioned monument were actually the burial-places of those two chiefs, who fell by the hand of each other. They were undoubtedly raised for the same purpose, but, like many others of a similar description in England, date from such high antiquity, that they are spoken of by our earliest historians as beyond all records of tradition, and the use of which, even in their time, was merely conjectural.

About a mile eastward from Kits Coty house, is Cosenton

house, which, though now only used as a farm, is large, displaying many obvious remains of its former state. From these grounds, in a deep chalky loose soil covered with coppice wood, issue several springs of clear water, which change the pebbles and flints lying therein to the most beautiful *carmine colour*, the same becoming stronger when dry; the water is very chilly, and has a rough taste, without possessing any chalybeate properties whatsoever.

From the village westward, the road leads near the bank of the river, by Friars Coptry, the stream which rises at Boxley running into the Medway, whereon is a papermill. At this spot the soil begins to present a deep sand, which continues up to the turnpike road at Sandling, leading from Rochester to Maidstone.

From the village of Aylesford to that part of the parish on the opposite side of the river, is a handsome stone bridge of six arches, erected many years back, and now supported at the public charge of the county. Hence the grounds rise with a gentle ascent, beautifully picturesque, towards the seat of Preston hall, which they environ, the whole being laid out to resemble a park, well clothed at intervals with stately elms, and other varied plantations, through which the road leads, having a sunk fence on either side, at a proper distance from the house; which mansion, being of white stucco, presents an elegant appearance contrasted with the verdure of the adjoining lawns. As far as the turnpike road from London, through Wrotham, to Maidstone, on the opposite side of this route, the parish stretches itself more than two miles southward, over a deeper soil, through a continued range of coppice woods; in the farther part of which, is the ancient chapel of Longsole, now called the *hermitage;* while beyond it extends and encloses within its bounds a small part of the northern side of Barming heath.

About a quarter of a mile westward from Preston hall, close to the bank of the river, lies the hamlet of Millhale, which place is within the civil jurisdiction of the corporation of Maidstone.

An annual fair is held here, on the 29th of June.

Aylesford is noted in ancient history for the battle fought there between the Britons and Saxons, in 455, about five years after the first landing of the latter on this island.

Vortimer, the British monarch, having assembled his forces in order to encounter the Saxons, first came up with them on the banks of the river Darent, in this county. In that conflict it is most probable the Saxons were defeated, as they retreated from their enemy, who followed their march, to Aylesford, where they had passed the Medway. On the eastern side of that stream a most sanguinary battle was then fought, the success of which remained for some time doubtful, though ultimately victory proved decisive on the side of our countrymen.

In this encounter, Horsa, brother of Hengist, the Saxon general, and Catigern, brother of King Vortimer, fighting hand to hand, were both killed on the spot, the former, as above mentioned, being interred, as is supposed, about three miles from Aylesford. In 1016, Edmund Ironside having gained a complete victory over the Danes at Otford, in this county, pursued them, with great slaughter, as far as Aylesford, on which occasion, had he not desisted from pursuing his adversaries at this passage over the Medway, through the treacherous advice of his son-in-law, Edric, he would in all probability have entirely annihilated the whole Danish army.

Dr. Plot was much inclined to think that Aylesford was the Roman station called *Vagniacæ*, but in that suggestion he has not been followed by any other writer that we have consulted.

The manor of Aylesford constituted part of the ancient demesnes of the crown of England, and subsequently was portioned out to different persons, who were said to hold their lands in *ancient demesne*, such only being so accounted as were actually in the hands of the crown, under Edward the Confessor, or William the Conqueror, and mentioned as such in the survey of Domesday.

This *tenure in ancient demesne* was a tenure in socage, the tenants whereof being in a great measure enfranchised by the royal favor, were only bound in respect to their lands to perform some of the better sort of villain services, those being determinate and certain, namely, to plough the king's lands, to supply his court with particular provisions; all of which were afterwards changed into pecuniary rents, and in consideration of this, they had many immunities and privileges granted them, viz. to try the right of their property in a peculiar court of their own,

to pay no toll, or contribute to the expenses of knights of the shire, or be chosen upon any juries.

That part of the parish which lies on the north-east side of the Medway, in which stand the town and church of Aylesford, is in the manor of that name, and ranks an ancient demesne, the jurisdiction whereof extends over the borough of Rugmerhill, in the parishes of Yalding, Hunton, Horsemonden, and Brenchley.

In the survey of Domesday, taken about the 15th of the reign of the Conqueror, this place was entered in that record under the title of *Terra Regis*.

In the 9th of King John, Osbert Gipford held this manor, after whose death it reverted to the crown, as Henry III. granted it to Sir Richard de Grey, of Codnor, youngest of the three sons of Sir John de Grey, whose ancestors have been already treated of, as well as the other branches of this family, under the description of the Grey's earls of Kent, in the general history of this county. Sir Robert, the eldest son, was of Rotherfield; and Walter, the second, was archbishop of York. Sir Richard de Grey, in the reign of King John, and during the time of the rebellious barons, having kept firm to the king's interests, shared many favors on that account, being made constable of Dover castle, and warden of the Cinque Ports. In the reign of Henry III. he went to the Holy Land, and returning thence, conveyed with him some Carmelite monks, and in the 25th year of the same reign, A.D. 1240, founded a priory of that order in his manor here; and during the following year, instituted another fraternity in London.

Edward I., in his 21st year, brought a writ of right against Henry de Grey, grandson of the above, for this manor; but the jury gave their verdict in his favor, as they also did on a *quo warranto* upon his claim of pleas of witherman assize of bread and ale, and gallows, within this manor.

Richard de Grey, of Codnor, his eldest son, succeeded the latter, who, in the 4th of Edward III., obtained a charter for a weekly market and annual fair, with *free warren* throughout all his demesne lands within his manor of Aylesford, in the 9th year of which reign he died, holding this manor of the king *in capite*, by the service of one knight's fee.

John, his eldest son, was of Codnor, and inherited this manor, who behaved himself with so much bravery, and for his singular activity, acquired so firmly the esteem of the king, that he received at the royal hands a hood of white cloth, embroidered with *blue men dancing*, buttoned in the front with large pearls; when, having to perform certain military exercises in a tournament at Canterbury, he had his accoutrements of Indian silk, whereon the arms of Sir Stephen de Cosyngton, of Aylesford, were painted. Becoming old and infirm, he obtained, in recompense of his valour and fidelity, a dispensation from Edward III. exempting him from appearing in parliament and at the councils, or being charged with sending forth any soldiers in the king's wars, or in those of his heirs and successors.

His descendant, Henry lord Grey, was much given to the study of chemistry, and obtained a license from Edward IV. to practise the transmutation of metals. He died in the 11th of Henry VII., and was buried with his ancestors in the church of this priory. He left two natural sons, from the youngest of whom, Henry, the Grey's, of Langley, in Leicestershire, were descended. The manor and castle of Codnor came to Elizabeth, his aunt and heir, wife of Sir John Zouche, a younger son of William lord Zouch, of Harringworth; and this manor of Aylesford continued in the possession of his widow, the lady Catherine Grey, afterwards married to Sir William de la Pole, for her life, at whose death it devolved to Sir John Zouche, and he was succeeded therein by Thomas Cornewall, who possessed the property at his death.

Sir Thomas Wyatt was the next possessor, whose son being attainted, his estates passed to the crown under Philip and Mary, who granted this manor to Sir Robert Southwell, of Mereworth, for his services in suppressing Wyatt's insurrection, to hold in tail special, with a reservation to the queen of the priory of Aylesford. In the 40th of Elizabeth he alienated this manor to Edward Randolph and Richard Argall, who joined in the sale of the property, in the reign of James I., to Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Preston hall, in this parish; on whose death it descended to his eldest son, William, who was created a baronet in 1627; and in his descendants it continued down to Sir Thomas Colepeper, bart., of Preston hall, who died possessed of it in 1723, without issue; leaving Alicia, his sister, then widow of Sir

Thomas Taylor, bart. of Maidstone, his heir. She afterwards marrying John Milner, of Yorkshire, M.D., settled this manor upon him and his heirs, when the estate passed in like manner as Preston hall, to Joseph Butler Milner, D.D., whose widow, Mrs. Sarah Milner, afterwards possessed the same.

The priory, now commonly called THE FRIARS, is situated close to the river Medway, at a small distance westward from the village of Aylesford. It was founded in the 25th of Henry III. A.D. 1240, by Richard lord Grey, of Codnor, for Friars Carmelites, being the first foundation of this order in England; soon after which, the monasteries of that fraternity increasing throughout Europe, they held the first general European chapter at this priory in 1245.

In the 11th of Edward II, Richard lord Grey, of Codnor, great grandson of the founder, granted to the prior of this convent three acres of land, to enlarge their mansion; and in the reign of Richard II. that king conferred upon the brothers a spring of water at a place called *Haly garden*, in the adjoining parish of Burham, and the land where it was situated, for the erection of an aqueduct. In the same reign also lived Richard Maidstone, S.T.P., so called from his birth in that town, having been a Carmelite monk, who wrote several books, and died in this priory, A.D. 1396, when he was buried in the cloister of the same.

This priory was dissolved under Henry VIII., who, in his 33d year, granted it to Sir Thomas Wyatt. His son, Sir Thomas, being attainted under Queen Mary, his estates became forfeited to the crown, where this property remained till the reign of Elizabeth, who granted it to John Sedley, esq. of Southfleet. He dying without issue, gave it to his brother William, afterwards knighted, and under James I. created a baronet. He resided at the priory, then called the Friars, and left one son, Sir John Sedley, bart. of Aylesford, who had three male children, successors to each other in title and estate, viz. Sir William, who died unmarried; Sir William, who married, but died without issue; and Sir Charles, a posthumous son, who became noted for his wit and gallantry in the reign of Charles II. He married Catherine, third daughter of John earl of Rivers, by whom he had an only daughter, Catherine, created by James II. in his first year, countess of Dorchester, and baroness Darling-

Engraved by B. Winkles

KENT.

ton, and she afterwards married Sir David Colyar, ancestor of the present earls of Portmore. This branch of the Sedley's bore for its arms, *Azure, a fess wavy, argent between three goats' heads erased, of the second,* and quartered with it the coats of the *Jenks's, the Grove's, and the Darell's.*

Sir William Sedley, bart., of the Friars, above mentioned, conveyed this estate by sale, in the reign of Charles I., to Sir Peter Ricaut, and he had ten sons, the youngest of whom, Sir Paul, was a great traveller, not only in Europe, but Asia and Africa, having published the then state of the Ottoman empire, when he was employed by government, both in Ireland and on the continent, in the reigns of Kings Charles II., James II., and William III. He died in 1700, æt. seventy-two. The Ricaut's bore for their arms, *Argent, a fess, counter embattled gules; in base, the bend of a limb of a tree, raguled and trunked, couped at both ends, proper.* His heir alienated the estate to Caleb Banks, esq. of Maidstone, whose son, John, resided here, and was created a baronet. He died, æt. seventy-two, and was buried in the north chancel of this church, where a magnificent monument was erected, bearing his own, and his wife's effigies, in marble. He bore for his arms, *Sable, on a cross between four fleurs de lis, argent, five pheons' heads, azure.* He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Dethick, of Norfolk, by whom he had a son, Caleb, who died aged thirty-seven; and two daughters and coheirs; Elizabeth, married to Heneage Finch; and Mary, to John Saville, esq. of Methley, in Yorkshire. On the division of their estates, the former entitled her husband, Heneage Finch, to the priory, with the estate appertaining thereto in Aylesford.

He was the second son of Heneage Finch, earl of Nottingham, lord chancellor of England, and being also bred to the law, acquired great reputation in that profession, since Queen Anne, in consideration of his merits and great abilities, created him, on the 15th of March, 1703, baron of the island of Guernsey, in Southampton, and one of her privy council. He died in 1719, and was buried at Aylesford, having had nine children, of whom Heneage earl of Aylesford, the eldest son, married Mary, daughter and heir of Sir Clement Fisher Packington, of Warwickshire, by whom he had one son, Heneage lord Guernsey, and four daughters. The earl died in 1757, and was succeeded by his only son Heneage, above mentioned, who became third

earl of Aylesford, and married Charlotte, daughter of Charles duke of Somerset. He died in 1777, leaving his lady surviving, and thirteen children, of whom the eldest son, born in 1751, was also earl of Aylesford, and succeeded him in this estate, called the Friars; nevertheless it remained with the dowager lady Aylesford, who made it her residence.

The earl of Aylesford married in 1781, Louisa, eldest daughter of the late marquis of Bath, by whom he had several sons and daughters. The family bears for its arms, *Argent, a chevron between three griffins passant, sable;* for crest, *On a wreath, a griffin passant, sable;* supporters on the dexter side, *A griffin sable, gorged, with a ducal collar, or;* on the sinister, *A lion of the second, ducally gorged, azure.*

The largest part of this ancient priory remains in excellent preservation, being by far the least destroyed of any conventual edifice in these parts. The great gate from the road continues entire, and opens into a large square court, wherein appear the doorways conducting to the cells. The side where the high buttresses remain on the left hand, within the gate, was the great hall or refectory, and is now divided into chambers. The kitchen was also on the east side of the square, as appears by the large fire-places still remaining in one angle. The chapel was that portion of the building which stands east and west; the north side fronts the garden, and the south the river, while the east window, where the dining-room now is, having an iron balcony, faces the town. The principal parts of this priory, namely the hall, chapel, and cloisters, were converted into stately apartments by Sir John Banks, and the cloisters also enclosed, and paved with black and white marble. There is a high stone wall fronting the road, that encloses the garden, being the same as in its ancient state; the large ponds at the mill above, also belong to this estate, which no doubt supplied the fraternity with fish.

Tottington, or Tottenden, as it is called in the rolls of Aylesford manor, lies about half a mile northeastward from the priory of Aylesford. In the reign of William the Conqueror it was part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in the record of Domesday.

Soon after, this manor became the property of Malgerius de

Rokesle, so called from his possessions at Rokesle, in this county. His son, Richard, gave the whole tithe of his land in Totintune, to the monks of St. Andrew's, in Rochester, on condition that he, and his wife and son, should receive the benefit of the prayers of that society. In his descendants this manor continued in the same state as that of Rokesle, before described, till at length it passed into the possession of Robert de Poynings, who died in the 25th of Henry VI., A.D. 1446, also possessed of the advowson of the free chapel of St. Stephen's therein, founded by his father, Richard de Poynings, both being held of the king as of his castle of Leeds, which was of the barony of Crevequer, by knight's service. He gave the property to Thomas Palmer, esq. of the court lodge, in Snodland, who had married his only daughter, and was grandson of Thomas, of Snodland, who espoused the daughter of the house of Fitz-Simon.

His son, John Palmer, was of Tottington, and left one son Thomas, and a daughter Catherine, married to John Rowe. Thomas Palmer died possessed of the estate in the 23d of Henry VII. holding it of the king as of his honour of Lisle, by knight's service; and his descendant, of the same name, alienated it in the reign of Henry VIII. to Richard Warcup, descended from those of Cumberland. His grandson, Henry, in the reign of Elizabeth, levied a fine of the same, and soon after alienated the estate to the Madox's, after which it passed into the family of the Sedley's, and thence to William Hodgkins, esq., who sold it to one Putcheon, from whom it was conveyed to a Golding, when Mr. Thomas Golding, of Ryarsh, dying in 1769, left it to his daughter, Mrs. Francis Golding.

This property is held of the crown by the yearly feefarm rent of £3 16 4.

Eccles was a manor in this parish, of considerable note in the reign of the Conqueror, having been then part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in the record of Domesday. On the disgrace of that prelate, this manor was given to Malgerius de Rokesle, whose descendant, Richard, held it in the reign of Edward I., as half a knight's fee, of Margery Rivers, as she did of Warine de Montchensie. It then passed to the families of the Poyning's and Palmer's of Snodland, and thence again to the Warcup's, who alienated it to John Sedley, esq., from one of

whose descendants a portion passed in like manner as Aylesford priory, to Heneage earl of Aylesford, when his grandson afterwards owned it. Part of this manor also became vested in the same owners as the manor of Tottington, and as such was in the possession of Mrs. Francis Golding; another portion was held by Mr. John Corral, and a considerable part, which was made liable to the payment of castle-guard rent for the whole of the same, to Rochester castle, was purchased by Mr. Thomas Best, of Chatham, whose grandson, Thomas Best, esq. of Chilston, died in 1795, and by will gave it to his nephew, George Best, esq. of the same place.

The site of the manor of Eccles is at present unknown, but supposed to have occupied the eastern extremity of this parish, near Boxley hill.

Cosenton, or Cosington, as it is usually spelt, is a manor in this parish, situated on the eastern side, adjoining to that of Boxley, near the high road from Rochester to Maidstone, the jurisdiction of the hundred of Maidstone claiming over the same.

It was anciently a place of much importance, having conferred both residence and surname to the eminent family of the Cosenton's, seated here in the reign of King John, as that prince, in his 18th year, absolved William de Cosenton, by pardon, for having taken an oath to Louis, the French dauphin. Sir Stephen de Cosenton was with Edward I. at the siege of Carlaverock, and there made a banneret by the king for his services, at which time it appears there was a chapel at this seat, dedicated to St. Michael, with a chantry founded by Sir Stephen de Cosenton. His son, Sir William de Cosenton, was sheriff of this county under Edward I., whose successor, Sir Stephen, in the 7th of Edward III. obtained a charter of *free warren* for his lands in Cosyngtone, Acrise, and Suthbertone, in this county, held of the barony of Ros, as of the manor of Horton Kirkby.

The family of Cosenton having received this manor by ancient feoffment from the Ross's, former lords of the same, in imitation of their arms, bore, *Or, three roses, gules,* those of Cosenton being *Azure, three roses, or,* which coat is carved on the roof of Canterbury cloisters.

At length, his descendant, Thomas Cosenton, esq. dying under Henry VIII., without issue male, his three daughters

marrying a Duke, a Wood, and a Hamon, became his coheirs; the eldest of whom entitled her husband, Duke, to the possession of this manor and seat. His descendants afterwards resided here, and in the reign of Charles I. it was in the possession of George Duke, esq., when, about the year 1696, for want of male issue, it devolved to Mary Duke, spinster, who died unmarried in 1750, and gave it by will to her nephew, Mr. Samuel White, of London, merchant, since whose demise, in 1770, it became the property of the Stacey's, and they, in 1797, alienated it to Mr. John Spong, of Millhale.

There is no court held for this manor.

Rowe's Place is an estate in the eastern part of this parish, once the seat of the ancient family of the Rowe's, which had its origin here, and subsequently branched off into the several families of the same name at Dartford, Penshurst, and Pluckley, in this county. Robert Rowe possessed this seat in the reign of Edward III., from whom it descended down to Robert a Rowe, esq., who, under Henry VII., settled it on Christian, his daughter, upon her marriage with Robert Nayler, esq., son of Richard Nayler, citizen of London, by the Lady Elizabeth, his wife, widow of George Nevill, lord Abergavenny, the deed being sealed with his arms, *Gules, a quarter foil, or.* From the name of Nayler it passed by another female heir to the Warcup's, one of whose descendants alienated it to the Sedley's; whence it passed, in like manner as Aylesford priory, to the Bankes's, by whose female coheir it went in marriage to Heneage Finch, esq., afterwards created earl of Aylesford, whose descendant, the earl of Aylesford, afterwards possessed the same.

The manors of Preston and Allington, in this parish, together with the seat named Preston hall, lie at a small distance from the river Medway, on the south side, opposite the town of Aylesford, and that part of this parish called ancient demesne. These manors were formerly possessed by the eminent family of the Colepeper's, which spread in different lines over the whole face of this beautiful country, each branch having produced men who became preeminently conspicuous as patriots, warriors, and statesmen, in the different ages wherein they flourished. The first of this name noted on record, although by no means the original of the family, is Thomas de Colepeper,

one of the *Recognitores Magnæ Assissiæ*, or judge of the great assize in the reign of King John, an office of very high account in those times, whose descendant, Sir John de Colepeper, was of Bayhall, in Pembury, as was subsequently his son, Sir Thomas Colepeper.

Soon after the last-mentioned period they separated into different branches, one of which remained at Bayhall, above mentioned; from whom descended the several branches of the families settled there, as well as at Bedgebury, Losenham, Wakehurst, Leeds castle, Hollingborne, St. Stephen's, and the Charterhouse. Of this latter line, John Spencer Colepeper died, leaving one son and a daughter, which son, John Spencer Colepeper, had three sons and eight daughters; the eldest of whom, John Spencer, married, and has issue three sons and two daughters. The elder of the eight daughters of the before-mentioned John Spencer Colepeper married Captain Paget Bayly, brother of the late earl of Uxbridge, and uncle to the most noble the present Marquis Anglesea, by whom she had one son, deceased, and two daughters, still living. We are given to understand that Lieutenant John Spencer Colepeper, the last-mentioned representative of this house, is legally entitled to the possession of Leeds castle, the circumstances connected with his claim being as follows:

Sir John Colepeper, knight, for his firm attachment and loyalty to his unfortunate monarch, Charles I., was, on the Restoration, created, in 1644, lord Colepeper, baron Thoresway, in the county of Lincoln. This nobleman purchased Leeds castle, where he resided, and dying in 1660, was buried at Hollingbourne, having married Judith, daughter of Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Hollingbourne, by whom he had three sons and four daughters; Alexander, who died without issue; Thomas lord Colepeper, born in 1634, who succeeded him, and married Margaret, daughter of Signior Jean de Hesse; and John, the third brother. Thomas left one sole daughter and heir, married to Thomas lord Fairfax, upon whose demise he was succeeded by his brother, John lord Colepeper, above mentioned, born in 1640, who married Frances, daughter of Sir Thomas Colepeper, and died 1719, without issue. Upon the death of Thomas lord Colepeper, he had settled Leeds castle on his daughter, Catherine, wife of Lord Fairfax, before adverted to, and by will, in default of her

male issue, which were two sons, who died without children; he devised the remainder to his brother, John lord Colepeper, and his heirs male general. This will was secreted, as it is believed, through the machinations of Lord Fairfax, and a Mrs. Willis, who had cohabited with the deceased Lord Thomas Colepeper, wherefore Lord Fairfax having, as before observed, married the heiress of the said Lord Thomas Colepeper, was desirous the estate should pass to his daughters, to the exclusion of Lord John Colepeper, and on that account the will was so disposed of. Upon the death of Lord Thomas, his brother, John, laid his claim before Parliament, when many papers were printed to the above effect, one of which is still in the possession of the present heir, as well as the patent of the barony. Lord John, however, dying before his claim could be substantiated, the present descendant, in a right line from the Hollingbourne branch, is thus cut off from the possession of an estate to which he has an undoubted claim, being the present Lieutenant Colepeper, grandson of John Spencer Colepeper, of the Charterhouse, so often before mentioned, who had the honour of serving his late Majesty during many years, both abroad and at home.

The other branch was seated at Preston hall, in Aylesford, and at Oxenhoath, in West Peckham; of both of which we shall now proceed to give some account, derived from a very copious manuscript pedigree of the several branches, from the visitation of the county of Kent, A.D. 1619, as well as authentic evidences and manuscripts; containing details of the early part of the pedigree, comprising the several branches of the same, among which are inserted the Colepeper's of Bayhall, in Pembury.

Walter Colepeper died in the last year of King Edward II., seized, as appears by inquisition after his death, of estates in Langley, Boughton, East and West Farleigh, Yalding, Malling, Brenchley, Tunbridge, and Shipborne. He bore for his arms, a *bend engrailed*, the field whereof is *argent, and the bend gules, his crest a hawk proper, gorged with a collar and bells;* motto, ***J'Espere;*** which coat is borne by the present family, the same being blazoned in several places on the roof of the cloisters in Canterbury cathedral, where they are also impaled with a coat bearing a bend. John lord Colepeper, of Hollingbourne, had for

supporters, *two griffins winged*. Walter Colepeper, above mentioned, left by Joan, his wife, three sons, of whom, Thomas, the eldest, was of Preston hall, and died without issue; Sir Geoffry, the second, succeeded his brother in that estate, being the ancestor of the Colepeper's, baronets of Preston hall, as well as of those of Oxenhoath; and John was the third son.

Sir Geoffry Colepeper resided at Preston hall, and was sheriff for this county in the 39th and 47th of Edward III., who left a son, William, of Aylesford. His son, Sir John, was a justice of the Common Pleas in the reign of Henry IV., and of Oxenhoath, in this county, who left by Catherine, his wife, Sir William Colepeper, of the same place, who was sheriff in the reign of Henry VI., and died the following year, when he was buried in West Peckham church, leaving one son, Sir John, who lived in the reigns of Kings Henry V. and VI.

His son, Sir William, was of Aylesford, who by his wife, a daughter of the Ferrer's, of Groby, had three sons, Sir Richard Colepeper, of Oxenhoath, who had three daughters and coheirs; William, who was of Aylesford; and Geoffrey William Colepeper, the second, of Preston hall, the lands of whose grandson, John, of Aylesford, and Thomas, his son, were *disgavelled*. In his descendants, residents at this seat, these manors, with Preston hall, continued down to William Colepeper, who, in 1627, was created a baronet. His great grandson, Sir Thomas Colepeper, bart. was sheriff of this county in the reign of Queen Anne, and kept his shrievalty at Preston hall; he died without issue in 1723, leaving his sister, Alicia, who had been first married to Herbert Stapely, esq., secondly, to Sir Thomas Taylor, bart. of Maidstone, but then the widow of Thomas Colepeper, counsellor at law, his sole heir. She afterwards married, the same year, John Milner, M.D. of Yorkshire, and made a settlement of the fee of these, among the rest of her estates, upon him and his heirs; but she having also survived him, died in 1734, without issue by either of her four husbands above enumerated.

Dr. Milner was descended of a respectable family seated at Pudsey, in Yorkshire, which bore for its arms, *Sable, three bridle bits, or*. He died before his wife, in 1724, as above mentioned, having devised the inheritance of these manors, with Preston hall, and his other estates, to his brother, Charles

Milner, M.D., who, on Lady Taylor's death, for so she styled herself, resided here, and dying unmarried in 1771, gave the whole of the property by will to his nephew, the Rev. Joseph Butler. He, in pursuance of that instrument, the same year, procured the king's licence to assume the surname, and bear the arms of Milner; and afterwards resided at Preston hall, which he modernised and nearly rebuilt, laying out the grounds with much taste, and at a considerable expense. He married, in 1772, Sarah, daughter of the Rev. Stringer Belcher, rector of Ulcombe, who died in 1784, leaving these manors, with Preston hall, for life, to his surviving widow, and after her death, to his nephew, Charles Milner, esq. of Farningham. On the window-frame of a large ancient barn, built of stone, belonging to Preston hall, on an outhouse, not far distant, as well as upon a chimney-piece, both equally of stone, is carved the date of 1102, with the letters T. C. on each of them.

The date on the above window, as well as the others, has been the occasion of much alteration among the learned. Vossius, in his treatise, *De Scientiis Mathematicis*, says, that numeral figures were not used in Europe till about the year 1300, or at least not earlier than 1250; and P. Mabillon, in his treatise, *De Re Diplomatica*, tells us he had not found them any where earlier than the 14th century, being somewhat later than the time designated by Vossius. Several dates have been produced from different parts of England to prove a much earlier use of numeral figures in this kingdom, viz. an inscription over a gate-way at Worcester, A.D. 975; the date on a window of a cellar at Colchester, A.D. 1090; another at Rumsey, in Hants., 1016; and a fourth, on a chimney-piece at Widgel hall, in Herts. All of the above, however, are supposed by most writers to have been either misunderstood or altered to serve a particular purpose. David Casley, in his catalogue of MSS. in the king's library, has given a specimen of a manuscript from the Cottonian library, called *Calendarium Rogeri Bacon*, dated 1292, wherein the figures are Arabian, being the most ancient he remembered to have encountered in either of those libraries.

Besides the above-mentioned opinions, that these Arabian figures did not come into use till long after 1102, there is another objection to the date above mentioned, having been executed as early as that year, namely that the quarterings of coats-armour

did not come into use till the time of Edward III., who began his reign in 1326, which, if true, will prove this date to have been put up at least subsequent to 1300; and a still more convincing evidence is, that the arms quartered are those of Colepeper and Hardreshall. John Colepeper, about the middle of the above reign, married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir John Hardreshall, so that his issue by her were the first who could have used the arms of Hardreshall quartered with their own, and their son was Thomas Colepeper. The T. C. on this stone must no doubt mean a *Thomas Colepeper*, owner of this estate, and no other of that Christian name existed afterwards until the sixteenth century, when another Thomas Colepeper owned this estate, and died possessed of the same in 1587. Many have conjectured that, as the O is so much more elevated in proportion to the other figures, some part adjoining the bottom had been obliterated, and that the second figure was meant to express a 5. However, on a close inspection, we do not see the least probability for this supposition, as the figures are plainly intended to represent what they now appear to be. The most probable conjecture, therefore, is, that a Thomas Colepeper, descended from John and Elizabeth Hardreshall, affixed, with his own name and arms, the date of 1102, being either the period when his ancestors first came into this county, or perhaps to this seat of Preston.

About a quarter of a mile northward from Barming heath, on an eminence near the eastern side of the road, leading through the woods from Aylesford thither, surrounded by the same, stand the ruins of the ANCIENT FREE CHAPEL OF LONGSOLE, now converted into a barn, and called the HERMITAGE, from its lonely situation.

King Edward III., in his 24th year, granted license to Stephen Fynamaur, chaplain of the chapel of St. Lawrence, of Longsole, to purchase lands and rents, of the yearly value of 100s., for the maintenance of himself and his successors, to celebrate mass in this chapel for ever; and accordingly there were granted to him and his successors, by several persons, different messuages, &c. to the amount of twenty-six acres of land, lying in this parish, of the yearly value of 16s. After the above period, great disputes arose between the vicar of Aylesford and the rector of Allington, concerning the oblations offered in this

chapel on the eve and festival of St. Lawrence, each claiming the same as his right, being within the bounds of their respective parishes. John bishop of Rochester therefore issued his mandate, in the last year of Henry V., to ascertain, by inquisition, in which of those parishes this chapel was situated, and to whom these oblations of right belonged, and to certify the same to him; since which, it has been decided to stand within the bounds of the parish of Aylesford. The remains of this chapel, now called the *Hermitage*, with the site thereof, was part of the possessions of Lord Romney, having been purchased, with the manor of Allington, and other estates in this parish, in 1732, of Sir Jacob Astley, bart. of Melston, constable in Norfolk.

AYLESFORD is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to St. Peter, is a handsome building, having a square tower at the west end.

King Henry I. gave the church of Aylesford to St. Andrew and Gundulph, bishops of Rochester, and afterwards confirmed it to them. Bishop Gundulph, upon separating his own maintenance from that of the monks of his priory, assigned this church, among others, to that fraternity, for their maintenance; and afterwards granted them the free disposition of the vicarage appertaining thereto.

This living was valued in the king's books at £10, the annual tenths being £1. The dean and chapter of Rochester are the patrons of this vicarage.

The parsonage of Aylesford has a manor belonging thereto, called the *manor of the parsonage of Aylesford.*

On the intended abolition of deans and chapters, after the death of Charles I., this manor and parsonage, with its appurtenances, and a wood, called Blaze wood, late belonging to the dean and chapter, were surveyed in 1694, when it appeared that the barns, yards, and other buildings, with two acres of glebe land, were worth £3 per annum, and the tithes £77 yearly; all of which were let by the dean and chapter to Sir George Fane, for twenty-one years, at the yearly rental of £22 and two weather sheep or 26s. 8d. in money, out of which lease the vicarage was excepted, then valued at £60 per annum.

The lessee, under the dean and chapter of Rochester, of this

manor and parsonage, with Blaze wood, was the Right Hon. Thomas Lord le Despencer.

In 1821 there were 192 dwellings in the parish of Aylesford; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 565, females 571, making a total of 1136 souls.

On the opposite side of the river Medway, about two miles above the town of Aylesford, adjoining the eastern part of the latter parish, lies that of Allington, called in Domesday, *Elentun*, and in many records *Alynton*.

The parish of Allington is very small, the soil being a thin loam, covering the quarry rock, bounded on the east by the Medway, the castle being situated within a few yards of the river, whence it is nearly excluded by the range of trees on the banks. It is a venerable ruin, and though now only used as a farm-house, was, in the reign of Henry VIII., and subsequently, the habitation of the knightly family of the Wyatt's, which resided here with much splendor till the estate was forfeited for high treason, in the reign of Queen Mary. The remains of the fortress are of considerable extent, and many of the external parts were, in the time of Mr. Hasted, in a state of good preservation. Hence the ground rises about half a mile south-eastward up the London road, through Wrotham, to Maidstone, which is two miles distant; while on the other side of the road, the parish continues, southward, about half a mile farther, among the coppice woods, as far as the Hermitage.

There is said to have been a castle erected at this spot in the time of the Saxons, which was afterwards demolished by the Danes. It subsequently fell to the possession of Ulnoth, fourth son of Earl Godwin, and, after the Conquest, constituted part of the property of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record.

Alnod Cilt was Ulnoth, fourth son of Earl Godwin, and younger brother to King Harold, who, from the royalty of his kindred, had this addition of *Cilt*, a similar denomination to the Latin word *Clito*, with which, persons of royal blood were always distinguished in those times.

On the disgrace of Odo, this property was granted by William

the Conqueror to his kinsman, William earl of Warren, in Normandy, who had greatly assisted him against the bishop during the rebellion raised by that powerful ecclesiastic. The earl of Warren was nephew to the Countess Gunnora, the king's great grandmother, and afterwards, by William Rufus, constituted earl of Surrey. He bore for his arms, *Chequy, or and azure.*

Earl Warren rebuilt this castle, and then transmitted his interest in the same to the Lord Fitz-Hugh, whose daughter and heir carried it in marriage to Sir Giles Allington, one of whose descendants passed it away in the latter end of the reign of Henry III. to Sir Stephen de Penchester, constable of Dover castle, and warden of the Cinque Ports. In the 8th of Edward I. he obtained the grant of a weekly market and an annual fair, with *free warren* in all his demesne lands, with the king's licence to erect a castle here, and fortify and embattle it, by which it appears, that he either rebuilt the castle, or that it had previously been but a small building or fort, not esteemed of sufficient consequence to be styled a castle, and by this means the place acquired the name in several records of Allington Penchester. Sir Stephen de Penchester died without issue male, leaving two daughters his coheirs, on the partition of whose inheritance, this estate of Allington was allotted to Henry de Cobham, of Rundale, in Shorne, second son of John de Cobham, in right of Joan, his wife, his eldest coheir ; and in his descendants it remained till one of that name, in the reign of Edward IV., alienated this manor and castle, which had been for some time called Allyngton Cobham, to Robert Brent. His grandson, William, in the reign of Henry VII., alienated the property to Sir Henry Wyatt, privy counsellor to that prince, who had been imprisoned in the Tower in the reign of Richard III., and was preserved by a cat, which fed him while incarcerated there, and for that reason he is always pictured with a cat in his arms or beside him. On the accession of Henry VII. he received great marks of royal favor, being knighted and constituted a member of the Privy Council. In the 5th of Henry VIII. he procured the disgavelment of his lands, and resided at this castle, of which and the manor he died possessed during that reign. He left an only son and heir, Sir Thomas Wyatt, born in this castle, who was a most accomplished gentleman,

and extremely esteemed both for his learning and poetical talents. Soon after his father's death, he was knighted, named of the Privy Council, and sent ambassador to the Emperor of Germany, where he acquitted himself highly to the satisfaction of his majesty. In the 28th of Henry VIII. he served the office of sheriff, and afterwards made a fair seat, as writers of that time termed it, of this castle.

Anthony Wood calls Sir Thomas Wyatt, *the delight of the muses, and of mankind,* and further says that, being sent by the king towards Falmouth, in Cornwall, during the heat of summer, he was seized with a violent fever, and stopping at Sherborne, in Dorsetshire, there died, and was buried, being only thirty-eight years old. Leland, in his poem, styles him *Incomparabilis,* and highly celebrates his praises. He was a great favorite of King Henry VIII., and, owing to a *bon mot,* raised the king's courage to proceed with the reformation, by telling him, "it was a hard case a man could not repent without the pope's permission."

On the death of Sir Thomas, he left a son of the same name, who was beheaded for rebellion against Queen Mary, upon which this castle and manor, with the advowson, became forfeited to the crown, where they continued till the reign of Elizabeth, who, in her 11th year, granted a lease of the house and manor of Allington, to John Astley, esq., master of her jewels; and afterwards, by letters patent, granted the castle, manor, and advowson of this church, to his son, Sir John Astley, and his heirs male in tail general, to hold by knight's service at the rental of £100 2 7, per annum; he having also about the same time a grant of the palace at Maidstone, where he resided. Soon after the above period, the mansion of this castle being uninhabited, fell to decay, when the park was converted to other purposes. Sir John Astley bore for his arms, *Azure, a cinquefoil, ermine.* He was descended from Thomas de Astley, son and heir of Walter de Estley, who lived in the reign of Henry III. and was baron of Astley castle, in Warwickshire. He died in 1639, and was buried at Maidstone, without surviving issue, when his three sisters became his coheirs; but this manor and castle, with other estates in the neighbourhood, he gave by will to his kinsman, Sir Jacob Astley, a man of great reputation for his bravery and conduct at the commencement of the grand

rebellion under Charles I., when, being general of the royal forces, he distinguished himself by his courage in several battles and encounters, and was, by letters patent, in the 20th of that reign, created baron Astley, of Reading, in Berks. He died at Maidstone in 1651, and was there interred, having had five sons; Isaac, who succeeded him as Lord Astley, and also in this estate, and one daughter Elizabeth, who married her kinsman, Sir Edward Astley. Isaac lord Astley died in 1662, and was buried near his father, leaving his son, Jacob lord Astley, his successor, who dying in 1688, was interred at Maidstone, when this barony became extinct; but the castle, manor, and advowson devolved, among the residue of his entailed lands, to Sir Jacob Astley, of Merton, constable in Norfolk, descended from Thomas, the elder brother of Jacob, first Lord Astley, and ancestor of the present baronets of that place. He, in the 6th of George I., A.D. 1720, alienated them, with other estates in this neighbourhood, to Sir Robert Marsham, lord Romney, whose grandson, lord Romney, afterwards possessed this estate.

ALLINGTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to St. Lawrence, is a small edifice, having always been considered an appendage to the manor, and is a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly value of £35, the annual tenths being 13s. 8d.; it is under the patronage of Lord Romney.

In 1821 there were six dwellings in the parish of Allington; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 24, females 21, making a total of 45 souls.

WESTWARD from ALLINGTON lies the parish of DITTON, called in ancient records, *Dictune*, deriving its name from the Saxon words, *dic* and *tune*, which signify the village situated on the *dike*, or *trench of water*.

The situation and soil of this parish is much the same as that of Allington, last described. The high from London, through Wrotham to Maidstone, crosses the centre, at the thirty-first milestone; the village stands thereon, and the church about a quarter of a mile farther southward, on an ascent beyond which

the parish reaches into the large tract of coppice woods, that extends as far as Teston and Barming. The stream from Bradborne park runs through this parish and village, across the above road, and having turned two mills, one above, and the other below, runs into the Medway, which forms the northern boundary of this parish. Near the north-west extremity, on the road leading from Larkfield to Newhith, and not far distant from that hamlet and the river, is Borough court; which parish is rather obscure, and contains nothing further worthy of notice.

THIS PLACE, at the survey of Domesday, was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in that record. The estate first described appears to have consisted of what has since been known by the name of the MANOR OF DITTON, *with the appendant* MANOR OF BRAMPTON. On the confiscation of these estates to the crown, they were held of the Clare's, earls of Gloucester, by a family which thence derived its surname.

In the reign of Edward I., William de Ditton held the manor of Ditton, of the earl of Gloucester, at which time that of Brampton, once part of the same, was held by William de Brampton of the above William de Ditton. At the beginning of the following reign of Edward II., Ralph de Ditton and Joan de Lewkenore, were owners of these manors; after which they passed into the name of Aldon, and Thomas de Aldon, in the 20th of Edward III., paid aid for both, holding them in manner above mentioned.

The manor of Siflestone also passed to the crown upon the disgrace of Odo, and was afterwards held by a family of that name. In the reign of Henry III., William de Sifleston held it of William Ditton, above mentioned, from which name it passed into that of Burghersh; Robert de Burghersh, constable of Dover castle, warden of the Cinque Ports, and a baron of this realm, having died possessed of this manor of Ditton, with that of Brampton, in the 35th of Edward I., A.D. 1305, and his son and heir, Stephen, in the 1st of Edward II. obtained a charter of *free warren* for all his demesne lands within the same. He was succeeded in the 3d of Edward II. by Bartholomew lord Burghersh, from whom this manor seems to have passed to Thomas de Aldon, who in the 20th of Edward III. was likewise possessed of the manor of Ditton and Brampton, as already men-

tioned. He died in the 35th of that reign, A.D. 1360, when these manors went to the family of the Pavely's, from which line they passed to that of the Windlesor's, or Windsor's, under Richard II., where they continued till conveyed by sale to Sir Lewis Clifford, K.B., descended from the Clifford's, of Clifford's castle, in Herefordshire.

His son William, of Bobbing, in this county, sold them, in the reign of Henry V. to Sir William Colepeper, whose son, Sir Richard, of Oxenhoath, in the 11th of Edward IV., died possessed of these manors, and leaving only three daughters, they became his coheirs; and, in the reign of Henry VII., joined in the sale to Thomas Leigh, of Sibton, in Liminge. He left a son John, of Addington, in Surrey, who, under Henry VIII., exchanged these lands with the king for estates elsewhere, who the following year granted, among other premises, his lordships or manors of Dytton, Syfflington, Est Malling, Maidstone, and Brampton, to Sir Thomas Wriothesley, lord Wriothesley, or Wriseley, as it was usually spelt, without any rent or account whatsoever; and, the following year, granted to him the fee of these manors and their appurtenances to hold *in capite* by knight's service, and the next year he had also a grant of the tenths reserved by the same.

This nobleman was descended from John Wryothesley, commonly called Wrythe, Garter king-at-arms in the reigns of Edward IV. and Henry VII., who left issue two sons, Thomas, likewise Garter on his father's death; and William York, herald, whose son was Thomas lord Wriothesley above mentioned. He had been, in that reign, created a baron, by the title of lord Wriothesley of Tichfield, in the county of Southampton; and the next year made Lord Chancellor, shortly after knight of the Garter, and, three days before the coronation of Edward VI., was created lord Southampton, bearing for his arms, *Azure, a plain cross or, between four falcons closed argent.* Soon after he alienated these manors to Sir Robert Southwell, of Mereworth, who, in the 1st and 2d of Philip and Mary, conveyed them to Sir Thomas Pope, in which line they remained till the reign of Elizabeth, when they were alienated to the Wiseman's, and became the property of William, George, and Philip Wiseman; but Philip having purchased the shares of the other two, possessed the whole fee.

From the name of Wiseman, these manors were conveyed, in the reign of James I., to Sir Oliver Boteler, of Teston, knight, of this county, who died possessed of the estate in 1632. His eldest son, Sir John Boteler, of Teston, died without issue, upon which his next brother, Sir William, became his heir, and was created a baronet in 1640. His great grandson, Sir Philip, bart. of Teston, died in 1772, without surviving male issue, and by will gave one moiety of his estates to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Chart Sutton, and the other moiety to Viscountess Dowager Folkestone, and William earl of Radnor, since deceased; when, on a partition of these estates, the manor of Ditton, with Brampton, and Sifflington, as it is now called, were allotted to Lady Folkestone, who died in 1782, and was succeeded by her only son, the Honourable Philip Bouverie, who afterwards assumed the name of Pusey, and owned this estate.

Borough court, the proper name of which is Brooke court, is a manor lying at the northern extremity of this parish, and at no great distance from Newhith and the river Medway. It was part of the ancient possessions of the eminent family of the Colepeper's, as early as the reign of Edward III., in the 1st year of which prince, Walter Colepeper, esq. was found to die possessed of the property. In his descendants it continued down to Richard Colepeper, esq. afterwards knighted, who was of Oxenhoath in this county, and died possessed of this manor, in the 2d of Richard III., A. D. 1484, leaving his three daughters his coheirs, when they joined in the conveyance of this property to Francis Shakerly, esq. of Lancashire, who then removed into this county, and resided at Brooke court. He had six sons, the eldest of whom became his heir; Thomas, the second, was of Wrotham; and the third, of Otham, who left a son Francis.

Richard Shakerly, the eldest son, was of Brooke court, and had issue a son John, born A. D. 1600, and a daughter Mary, who, on her brother's death without issue, entitled her husband, Mr. Peter Bewley, to this manor. They had two daughters, Elizabeth, who died unmarried, and Mary, who became her father's heir, and carried this manor in marriage to Mr. Basse, of Suffolk, who, in the reign of Charles II., alienated the estate to Sir Thomas Twisden, one of the judges of the court of King's Bench.

He was second son of Sir William Twisden, bart. of East Peckham, by Anne, his second wife, daughter of the Countess Winchelsea, and created a baronet in 1666. He afterwards seated himself at Bradbourne in East Malling; and in his descendants the property continued down to Sir John Papillon Twisden, bart. of Bradbourne.

There is a court-baron held for this manor.

DITTON PLACE is a mansion in this parish, which, in the reign of James I., was the residence of the family of the Bremer's, many of which line are buried in this church. It continued in that name till the commencement of the eighteenth century, when it fell into the possession of Thomas Golding, esq. of Leyborne, who gave it by will to his nephew, Mr. Thomas Golding, of Ryarsh; he sold it to John Bremer, esq., whose niece, Mrs. Carney, of West Farleigh, reconveyed it to Mr. Thomas Golding, whose son, Mr. John Golding, subsequently possessed the same.

DITTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church dedicated to St. Peter, is a small building, having a square tower at the west end, and was valued, in the king's books, at £11 15, the yearly tenths being £1 3 6.

In 1821 there were thirty-six dwellings in the parish of Ditton; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 100, females 92, making a total of 192 souls.

Northward from Ditton, on the western side of the Medway, (a small part of Alyesford intervening,) is SNODLAND, called in Domesday *Eswyiland*; and, in the *Textus Roffensis*, SNODDINGLAND, and SNODILAND.

Snodland is situated on the western bank of the river which forms its eastern boundary opposite to Burham. The high road from Stroud to Larkfield passes through this village; and, with the church, is about half a mile from the river. It lies low, and being near the salt marshes, is neither very pleasant or healthy. In the southern part of the parish, the stream which flows from Birling turns a papermill, and thence empties itself into the Medway, near which is Snodland and New Hyth common. In

the northern part of the parish, next to Lower Halling, is the *hamlet* of *Holborough*, usually called *Holborow*, no doubt for Old Borough, a name implying the antiquity of this place. Many writers are inclined to believe, that the usual passage across the river in the time of the Romans, was hence to Scarborough; on the opposite shore, Holborow was certainly known to them, as, in the reign of Elizabeth, *an urn*, filled with ashes, was discovered in digging for chalk on the hill above this place, a certain token that the site had been frequented by that people.

In this hamlet is a handsome house, the property of Mr. John May, near which rises a small brook that flows into the Medway about half a mile distant. From this low country, on the bank of the river, the ground rises westward to the range of chalk hills, where the land becomes poor, and covered with flints. Upon these hills among the woods, is an estate, corruptly called *Punish*, having taken its name from the family of Povenesse, or Pevenashe, written by contraction Poneshe, which line was possessed of this property in the reign of Henry III. Under Elizabeth it was called Poynyshe, being then vested in the name of Brown, who held it of the bishop of Rochester, as of his manor of Halling. About a mile eastward from the above is a farm called *Lads*, which, in the reign of Edward I., and some generations afterwards, was in the possession of a family of that name, written in deeds of those times, Lad, and Le Lad.

Sir John Marsham, bart., and Sir Charles Bickerstaff, had a design of supplying the towns of Stroud, Rochester, and Chatham, with fresh water, by bringing it from the springs rising at the foot of Holborough hill, and others thereabouts, by means of a cut or channel, through Halling and Cuxton thither, four miles of which was through Sir John Marsham's own lands. However, after they had proceeded about two miles, finding some obstruction which could not be removed but by an Act of Parliament, the same was procured in the 1st of James II., but nothing further was afterwards done in this business, for what reason does not appear.

In 838 King Egbert, with the consent of his son Ethulwulf, gave to Beormod, bishop of Rochester, four plough lands at Snoddingland and Holanbeorge, with the privilege of leaving them to whom he might think fit; and he further granted,

that these lands should be free from all service, to which he added one mill on the stream, named Holanbeorgesbourn; and, on the hill belonging to the king, fifty loads of wood, as well as four denberies in the Weald. In 841, Ethulwulf, king of the West Saxons, with the advice of his bishops and great men, also gave to the bishop two plough lands, at Holanbeorges, in perpetual inheritance, with the same privilege, and that they should be free from all regal service.

While Ælfstane was bishop of Rochester, who came to the see in 945, and died in 984, one Birrick, a rich man, residing at Meopham, with the consent of Elfswithe, his wife, made his will, and devised, after their deaths, his lands at Snodland to St. Andrew's church at Rochester.

The bishop of Rochester continued in the possession of this place, at the time of taking the general survey of Domesday, A.D. 1080, under the title of whose lands it was therein entered. Bishop Gundulph, soon after this, following Archbishop Lanfranc's example, separated his revenues from those of his priory, when this manor, together with Holanborough, continued part of the bishop's possessions, and was confirmed to the church of Rochester by Archbishops Anselm and Boniface.

On a taxation of the bishop's manors, the ensuing year, it appeared that Holeberge was a member of the manor of Halling, having in the same 197 acres of arable land, valued at 4d. per acre at the highest, there being no marl there.

The family of the Palmer's, who bore for their arms, *Argent, a chevron between three Palmer's scrips, sable, tasselled and buckled, or,* resided for some time in this parish, at a seat they possessed, called the *court lodge.* Several of this line lie buried in the church of Snodland, particularly Thomas Palmer, who married the daughter of Fitzsimond, and died A.D. 1407. Weever recites his epitaph, now obliterated, having been as follows:

"Palmers al our faders were,
I, a Palmer livyd here,
And travylled till worne wythe age,
I endyd this world's pylgramage,
On the blyst Assention day,
In the cherful month of May,
A thowsand, wyth fowre hundryd seven,
And took my jorney hense to Heven."

From the above Thomas, descended the Palmer's of Tottington, in Aylesford, and of Howlets, in Bekesborne, now extinct.

The Palmer's were succeeded here by the Leeds', one of whom, William Leeds, was interred in this church, whose arms, *A fess, between three eagles*, were engraved in brass on his tomb, but are now torn away, and to that name succeeded the Whitfield's, of Canterbury. It afterwards passed into the line of the Crow's, thence to the May's, and ultimately became the property of Mr. John May, of Holborough.

Veles, otherwise Snodlands, is a manor in this parish, which, in the reign of Edward I., was held as half a knight's fee, of the bishop of Rochester, by John de Pevenashe, John Harange, and Walter Lad, as coparceners; and, in the 20th of Edward III. Richard Pevenashe, John de Milford, John Lad, and Richard le Veel, paid aid for the same.

This manor seems afterwards to have been wholly vested in the family of the Veel's, called in old deeds, Le Vitele, and in Latin, *Vitulus*. After they became extinct, it passed into the name of the Blunt's, and from that to the Turvyes, of whose heirs it was held, in the latter end of the reign of Henry VIII., by Richard Harvey. It then passed, after some intermediate owners, by sale to the Crow's, and thence to Mr. John May, of Holborough.

Holloway Court is a seat in this parish, which gave name to a family that resided there, Henry de Holweye having paid aid for it in the reign of Henry III. His descendant, William de Holweye, possessed it under Edward I., from which name it passed into that of the Tilghman's, who owned it under Edward III., many of which line lie buried in this church, having borne for their arms, *Per fess sable and argent, a lion rampant regardant, double queued counterchanged, crowned*, as they were blazoned in very old glass, in the windows of this mansion. Richard Tilghman possessed it in the reign of Henry IV., and in his descendants it continued down to Edward Tilghman, esq. of Snodland, having had three sons, the eldest of whom, Whetenhall Tilghman, esq., had part of his father's lands in this parish, which continued in his descendants till 1680, when they were alienated to Sir John Marsham, bart., whose descendants, the Lords Romney, afterwards possessed the same.

SNODLAND is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* and *deanery* of Rochester. The church, dedicated to All Saints, is a small building, with a low pointed steeple, and was valued in the king's books at £20, the yearly tenths being £2.

In the last census of the population, taken in 1821, Snodland is entered as being united with Paddlesworth, the number of dwellings being estimated at fifty-nine; at which period, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 240, females 198, making a total of 438 souls.

PADLESWORTH, commonly called *Paulsford*, is the next parish westward from Snodland, named in Domesday, *Pellesforde*, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, *Pædleswrtha*.

This parish is very small, and lies between Snodland and the foot of the chalk hills, northwestward, on a chalky soil, the court lodge, with the ruins of the church near it, standing in the centre of the parish, which is very obscure, and but little known.

At the time of taking the survey of Domesday, this place was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the title of whose lands it was entered in that record.

The largest portion of this manor, in the reign of Henry III. seems to have been in the possession of the family of the Chetwode's, one of which, Robert de Chetwode, exchanged it with Hamo de Gatton, of Throwley, for other lands in Bedfordshire, and he passed it in the same reign to Sir Walter de Huntingfield, who owned it under Edward I. In the 11th of Edward II. he had a demise in ferme from the prior and convent of Bermundesey, of their lands of Padlesworth, which Roger de Leyborne had formerly given them for eighty marks. His son, Sir John de Huntingfield, owned it in the next reign of Edward III., but in that of Henry III. Ralph de Padlesworth held it of William de Say, lord of Birling.

A remaining part of this manor, being esteemed one third, was held in the reign of Edward III. by the family of the Basing's, from which name it passed to that of the Charles's.

Richard Charles died possessed of this third part under Richard II., leaving Richard and John, the two sons of his brother Roger, his next heirs. Alice, wife of Richard, the eldest son, died possessed of this third part of the manor of Padles-

worth, in dower, (excepting certain lands which were of the tenure of gavelkind,) of the king, *in capite*, by knight's service, by homage and fealty, and also paying the annual castle-guard rent of twenty-four shillings, to Rochester castle.

Soon afterwards the whole of this manor seems to have been vested in the name of the Beles's, whence it passed to the Bullock's, and thence again by sale to the Diggs's, when, after a short time, it was alienated to the Peckham's. They sold it to the Vinely's, by whom it was passed to William Clifford, of Bobbing court, who conveyed it to John Bambery, and he bore for his arms, *Argent on a chief, sable, a lion passant*, of the first. His daughter and heir, Elizabeth, carried it in marriage to Nicholas Wotton, esq., and his descendant, Sir Edward, of Boughton Malherbe, was by King James I. created Lord Wotton, of Marley.

His son and heir, Thomas lord Wotton, died in the reign of Charles I., leaving four daughters his coheirs; of whom, Catherine, the eldest, entitled her husband, Lord Stanhope, to the possession of this manor. He left her surviving, upon which she again possessed it in her own right, and afterwards passed it by sale to John Marsham, esq. of Whorne's place, in Cookstone, who was created a baronet in 1663; and his descendant, Lord Romney, ultimately possessed the same. It was afterwards held of the manor of Swanscombe by castle-guard rent to the castle of Rochester.

Padlesworth is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester, and *deanery* of Malling. This church was anciently esteemed but as a chapel to that adjoining of Birling. It has been long in ruins, that part still standing being built of flint, with ashlar quoins, having been many years used as a barn. It stands close to the north side of the farm-yard belonging to the manor house, and was valued in the king's books at £3 6 8.

For the last census of the population see the foregoing parish of Snodland.

Southwestward from Padlesworth lies Birling, so named from the quantity of pasture lands within this district.

This parish is about three miles square, situated in an obscure and unfrequented country, at the foot of the range of chalk hills,

called here Birling hills, over which it extends to Punish, in Snodland, and also to an estate called BOGHURST, at which Walter, son of John de Bogehurst, resided in the reign of Edward I., and also held lands of the bishop of Rochester, near his park, in Snodland ; it is most probable that those of that name in Frindsbury, Stroud, and Rochester, are descended from this stock.

The soil of this parish is various ; in the southern parts, being sandy ; up the hills, chalk and flints; and above the latter, a heavy red earth ; while the lower district abounds in much fertile land.

The village and church of Birling lie low on the southern side of the parish, containing the church ; between which and the foot of the hills is Birling place, the ancient residence of the Nevill's. Some remains are yet left, particularly a stone gateway, which reminds us of its former condition, whereas it is now nothing but a farm-house. A mile hence, eastward, is Comford, another seat of this family ; adjoining which, was once a park ; Henry lord Bergavenny having resided here, who died in the 29th of Queen Elizabeth. It now presents only a farm-house, and, was it not for the mention of this noble family, the parish stands so obscure that it would scarcely be known. In Oxfield, adjoining the churchyard, many foundations have been, from time to time, dug up ; and while the Nevill's made this spot their residence, it was, most probably, in a very flourishing condition.

This place was part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record.

Ralph de Curva-Spina, or Crookthorne, resided at Comport, or Comford park, in the north-east part of this parish, where that family continued till the reign of Henry II., when it was succeeded by the Magminot's. Walkelin de Magminot died without issue in the 3d of Richard I., 1191, when Alice, his sister, became his heir, who carried this manor in marriage to her husband, Geoffrey, second son of William de Say, who, in her right, became likewise entitled to large estates at Deptford, Cowdham, and elsewhere in this county. His descendant, William de Say, died possessed of the manor of Birling in the 23d of Edward I.; and in some old deeds, Birling is styled

caput baroniæ de Say, that is, the capital seat of his barony. These baronies were of no determinate extent, being more or less, according to the grant of the king, each of which being held *in capite* by barons, was accounted a complete barony, notwithstanding the difference in the number of fees contained in each. Those who held them were called barons, and as such, always summoned to Parliament.

However, in the reigns of Kings John and Henry III., they were so greatly increased in number, began to augment so much in power, and became so turbulent, that the latter prince, in the 50th year of his reign, summoned only the most experienced among them, by writ, to Parliament. Edward I. and his successors continued the same course; from which time those only were accounted barons who had writs or a summons to Parliament, and it has been observed, that this prudent monarch constantly summoned the wisest men of the most ancient families, omitting, after their deaths, those sons who did not equal their fathers in understanding and talent.

His son, Geoffry de Say, was summoned to Parliament, among the barons of this realm, in the 7th of Edward II., as were his several descendants afterwards. He died in the 15th year of that reign, possessed of this manor, which he held of the king *in capite*, as of the barony of Maminot. At length, John de Say dying in his minority, and in ward to the king, in the 6th of Richard II., Elizabeth, his sister, became his heir, and possessed this manor. She married, first, Sir John de Fallesby, by whom she had no issue; and secondly, Sir William Heron, who possessed this manor, and bore the title of lord Say in her right.

In the 19th of Richard II., they levied a fine to them and their heirs male, with remainder to her own right heirs; four years after which she died, when he continued possessed of the estate till his death, in the 6th of Henry IV. Upon this, the manor passed by the above fine to her heirs and next of kin, being the three sisters of her father, William de Say, and their heirs; and upon a partition of their inheritance, this property, with other estates, was allotted to Sir William de Clinton, grandson of Idonea, the eldest sister, who, upon this, bore the title of lord Clinton and Say, and having been summoned to Parliament in the reign of Henry VI., died the following year, leaving one son, John lord Clinton, his next heir.

Previous to that period, this manor had been for some time in feoffees for particular uses, as appears by an autograph document in the Surrenden library; but upon his death, it became vested in Elizabeth, daughter and sole heir of Richard Beauchamp, earl of Worcester and lord Bergavenny, son of Sir William, the fourth son of Thomas earl of Warwick, then married to Sir Edward Nevill, fourth son of Ralph, the first earl of Westmoreland, by Joan, his wife, daughter of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster.

The ancestor of this family of the Nevill's was a Norman, who landed with the Conqueror, whose grandson, Geoffrey, left an only daughter and heir. She married Robert Fitz-Maldred, of Raby, in the bishopric of Durham, whose son, of the same name, in consequence of his mother's great inheritance, assumed the surname of Nevill; and his descendants, from this principal seat of the family, were called the Nevill's of Raby, and summoned to Parliament by that title. To trace this numerous and illustrious family would prove the descendants related not only to most of the nobility in the kingdom, but also to the royal family, a task too voluminous for the present History. It is therefore sufficient to notice here, that Ralph Nevill, earl of Westmoreland, by his first wife, was ancestor of the Nevill's earls of Westmoreland, and Nevill lord Ousley; while by his second wife he had eight sons and five daughters, most of whom became peers of the realm, and men of great eminence and renown. Richard, the eldest, was earl of Warwick and Salisbury, whose son, Richard the great earl of Warwick, surnamed *the King Maker*, ended in two daughters, married to George duke of Clarence, brother of Edward IV., and Edward prince of Wales, son of Henry VI.; and secondly, to Richard duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III. John was created Marquis Montacute, and George was archbishop of York; William was, in right of his wife, Lord Fauconbridge, and afterwards earl of Kent; George was, by feoffment from his father, Lord Latimer; Edward was baron of Bergavenny, as before mentioned; and Robert was bishop of Durham.

The arms of Beauchamp are carved in several places on the roofing of Canterbury cloisters; as are those of the Nevill's, with several impalements. Those shields are equally in the

cathedral as well as over the stone gateway leading to that edifice, erected about the reign of Henry VIII.

Sir Edward Nevill having performed homage for the lands of his wife's inheritance in the 14th of Henry VI., A. D. 1435, had possession of the estates accordingly, excepting the castle and lordship of Bergavenny. However, in right of his wife, he held the title of lord Bergavenny according to the ancient custom of the realm, though he was not summoned to Parliament till ten years afterwards. He died under Edward IV., being then possessed, as tenant, by the courtesy of England, of the inheritance of Elizabeth, his wife, of this manor, with Mereworth in this county, among others. This custom of being tenant by courtesy was never repealed till the reign of Henry VIII., when Mr. Wimbishe assumed the title of Talbois, in right of his wife, having had no issue by her; when, in order to avoid the inconvenience which might arise from those proceedings, the king, assisted by the civil and temporal lawyers, gave sentence, that no man being the husband of a baroness, should in her right use the title of her dignity until she produced a child, whereby he would become tenant, by courtesy, of her barony; for then, by the law of England, which gave him title to the barony, he had also title to the dignity, as parcel of the same inheritance.

Edward Nevill, lord Bergavenny, left by his wife, above mentioned, Sir George Nevill, lord Bergavenny, who succeeded him in this manor, and, as his father had before done, attached himself strongly to the interest of the house of York. He died in the 7th of Henry VII., A. D. 1492, and was buried in the priory of Lewes, in Sussex, leaving several sons and daughters; of whom, George became heir; Edward was attainted and executed, whose descendants succeeded, in process of time, to the title of Bergavenny; and Thomas was of the Privy Council, and secretary of state to Henry VIII., whose only daughter and heir, Margaret, married Sir Robert Southwell, of Mereworth.

Sir George Nevill, lord Bergavenny, succeeded his father in this manor, and afterwards, on the castle and manor of Bergavenny becoming vested in the crown, by the death of Jasper duke of Bedford, they were, by Henry VIII., granted to Sir George, as the true and lawful heir, upon a petition of right exhibited by him to the king.

In the 13th year of that reign, A.D. 1497, when the Cornish rebels encamped on Blackheath, the above peer, with many other lords, by their great credit and power, prevented this county from joining the malcontents; and he had also a share in the victory obtained over them soon afterwards. In the 2d of Henry VIII., he was made constable of Dover castle, and warden of the Cinque Ports. In the 5th year of the same reign he was created knight of the Garter, and subsequently attended the king at the sieges of Terouenne and Tournay, and in his 12th year was present at the memorable interview between Henry VIII. and Francis I., in the plain between Guisnes and Ardres, called the Field of Gold Cloth. His arms, within the garter, are still remaining in the east window of Birling church, containing four quarterings, 1st, Nevill; 2d, Warren; 3d, Clare and Despencer quartered; and 4th, Beauchamp. Having married Mary, daughter of Edward duke of Buckingham, he was suspected of being privy to those treasonable practices with which his grace was then charged, and in consequence imprisoned, but soon afterwards again received into favor. He died in the 27th of Henry VIII., possessed of this manor, with its appurtenances, which then consisted of seven messuages and 2000 acres of land in Birling, Ryarsh, and Addington; having by will entailed most of his lands, in failure of heirs male of his own body, to the heirs male of his brother, Sir Edward Nevill; and the remainder, in fee, to his own right heirs, ordering his body to be interred in the church of Birling. He was three times married.

Henry Nevill, lord Bergavenny, his son and successor, by his second wife, was summoned to Parliament under Edward VI. On the insurrection of Sir Thomas Wyatt, in the reign of Queen Mary, he raised a body of forces to oppose him, and overtaking a party of the insurgents at Blacksoil field, in the parish of Wrotham, there engaged and routed them, great numbers being slain. He died at his seat of Comford, in the 29th of Queen Elizabeth, and was buried at Birling with great pomp and solemnity.

His daughter, then aged thirty-two, was his sole heir, who, in the 17th of Elizabeth, married Sir Thomas Fane, when she challenged the title of baroness Bergavenny against Edward Nevill, son of Sir Edward, a younger brother of George lord

Bergavenny. This Sir Edward Nevill had been a great favorite of Henry VIII., and was said to resemble the king in person; but in the 29th year of that reign, being accused and found guilty, with others, of maintaining a correspondence with Cardinal Pole, he was attainted and beheaded, by which all his remainder in his brother's lands were forfeited to the king. Queen Mary, however, restored his son, Edward Nevill, by Act of Parliament, to the forfeited remainder, so long as there should be any heir male; but the remainder to the heirs was reserved to the queen. He left two sons, Edward, above mentioned, who was restored to the title of lord Bergavenny; and Henry, of Billinghear, in Berkshire; from which line the Nevill's of that county are descended. The dispute above mentioned was not terminated till the 1st of James I., A. D. 1602, when the barony of Bergavenny was given to the heirs male; and, as a compensation to the female heir, she was, by the king's letters patent, created baroness Le Despencer, with entail to her heirs. This circumstance has been previously mentioned, but is, from necessity, introduced again in this place, in order to account for the succession. Edward Nevill, to whom the barony of Bergavenny was thus decreed, had died in the 31st of Elizabeth, and was succeeded by Edward, his eldest son, who had the title confirmed to him in the 1st of King James, above mentioned; after which, he laid claim to the earldom of Westmoreland, which was determined against him. He had several sons and daughters; of the former, Sir Henry Nevill, the eldest, succeeded him in title and estates. Edward lord Abergavenny, as he was afterwards called died in 1623, and was buried, with his ancestors, at Birling; and his descendant, George lord Abergavenny, died without issue in 1695, upon which, the title descended to the heirs male of Sir Christopher Nevill, next surviving son of Lord Abergavenny.

Sir Christopher Nevill was seated at Newton St. Low, in Somersetshire, and made knight of the Bath at the coronation of Charles I., who, dying in 1694, was interred at Birling. His grandson, George, was of Sheffield, in Sussex, and had two sons; George, who succeeded as Lord Abergavenny, in 1695, and Edward, who was father of William lord Abergavenny, and died in 1701. George lord Abergavenny, with the title, possessed also the manor of Birling, and had two sons, George and Edward, who succeeded each other in this title.

He died in 1721, and was succeeded by his eldest son, George lord Abergavenny, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Thornicroft, esq. of Westminster, and dying without issue in 1723, was succeeded in title and in this manor by his brother Edward lord Abergavenny, who married Catherine, daughter of General Tatton. He, dying without issue in the nineteenth year of his age, was succeeded in title by William Nevill, son and heir of Edward Nevill, only brother of George lord Abergavenny, father of George and Edward, the last lords above mentioned.

William lord Abergavenny married Catherine lady Abergavenny, widow of Edward, the late lord, and by her had a son, George. He married, secondly, Rebecca, daughter of Thomas earl of Pembroke, by whom he had one son and three daughters. He died at Bath in 1744, and was succeeded by his eldest son by his first wife, George, who was by letters patent further advanced to the titles of Viscount Neville, of Birling, in Kent, and earl of Abergavenny in the county of Monmouth. He had several children, and dying in 1785, was succeeded by his eldest son, Henry earl of Abergavenny, who married the daughter of John Robinson, esq. of Sion hall, in Middlesex, by whom he had several children.

He bore for his arms, *Gules, on a saltier, argent, a rose of the first, barbed and seeded proper;* for his crest, *In a ducal coronet, or, a bull's head, argent, pied sable, armed of the first, and charged on the neck with a rose gules;* supporters, *Two bulls, argent, pied sable, armed, unguled, collared and chained, or.*

The original arms of Nevill were, *Or, fretty gules on a canton, per pale, ermine and or, a ship with three tops, sable.* But, in the reign of Edward III., the heiress of this name marrying Robert Fitzmaldred, of Raby, though he assumed the name of Nevill, nevertheless retained his own arms, *Gules, a saltier argent,* as did all the Nevill's, his descendants, with *difference on the saltier,* for distinction, except the eldest branch of Westmoreland, which bore the *saltier* plain. He bears, including his own arms, 108 quarterings.

The old seat of the Lords Abergavenny, in this parish, has been long since neglected, nor has this family resided here for many generations, their present seat being at Kidbrooke, near East Grinsted, in Sussex.

Birling is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of

the *diocese* of Rochester, and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to All Saints, is a handsome building, the vicarage being valued in the king's books at £6 9 4½, and the yearly tenths at 12s. 11½d.

In 1821, there were eighty-two dwellings in the parish of Birling; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 239, females 220, making a total of 459 souls.

Southward from Birling lies Ryarsh, commonly called Rash; in Domesday record it is named *Riesce,* and in the *Textus Roffensis,* Reiersce.

The parish of Ryarsh is rather an unfrequented district, but more healthy than either pleasant or fertile, being about two miles in length, and extremely narrow. The water, called Addington brook, crosses the centre of the parish, eastward, beyond which it extends southward up to the high road from London, through Wrotham to Maidstone, about half a mile beyond which is *Fatherwell,* situated at the boundary of the parish, near Ofham street. The village stands close to the north side, near the above brook, having the church to the east, almost adjoining Leyborne parish. Hence the ground rises northward, where, at about a mile distant, is another hamlet, also denominated Ryarsh, being larger than the former village. The soil between the two is a deep unfertile sand, but on the rising ground, southward of the turnpike road, it borders much upon the quarry rock.

This manor was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in Domesday record. Upon the disgrace of that prelate, this manor seems to have passed to the family of the Crescie's, one of which is mentioned in the roll of Battle abbey, as having survived the fatal conflict at Hastings.

William de Crescie possessed this manor in the reign of King John, whose descendant, Hugh de Crescie, died in the 47th of Henry III., without issue, when Stephen, his brother, became his heir, and succeeded to this manor. In the following reign of Edward I., John de Mowbray held the estate, as appears by ancient court rolls of the reign of Edward II., as parcel of the

barony of Bedford. Becoming subsequently discontented, concerning some portion of the property of his wife, Aliva, having been withheld from him, he took up arms, with other great men, but, being defeated at the battle of Boroughbridge, in Yorkshire, in the 15th of Edward II., was there taken prisoner, and conveyed to York, where he was hanged, and his estates confiscated to the crown.

His descendants were summoned to parliament as Lords Mowbray, of Axholme, one of whom, John lord Mowbray, was created earl of Nottingham on the coronation of Richard II., with this special clause in the charter of his creation, viz. that all the lands and tenements of which he was then possessed, or should after purchase, were to be held *sub honore comitali*, as parcel of his earldom. He enjoyed this honour only till the eighteenth year of his age, and then died in the 6th of that reign, when he was interred in the church of the Carmelites, near Fleet street, London.

He was succeeded by Thomas, his brother, who, two days after, was advanced to the dignity of earl of Nottingham, *per cincturam gladii*, and by patent, in the above reign, A.D. 1385, had granted to him the title and office of Earl Marshal of England, being the first of that creation, when he stood in such favor with the king, that he permitted him to bear for his crest, *A golden leopard, with a white label*, which, by right, belonged to the king's eldest son, wherefore a coronet of silver was substituted for the white label. It was also awarded, that he and his heirs male, in consequence of their office of earl marshal, should bear a golden truncheon, enamelled with black at either extremity, having at the upper end the arms of the king, and at the lower his own armorial bearings; the following year he was further created duke of Norfolk; his grandmother, Margaret, daughter and heir of Thomas Brotherton, being the same day constituted duchess of Norfolk for life.

Notwithstanding these favors, he was banished the following year, for having brought accusations against Henry duke of Hereford, when it was determined the cause should be tried by the laws of chivalry. A day was in consequence appointed for the trial by combat, every ceremonial having been prepared with great solemnity by command of the king, who, after the disputants had entered the lists, forbade the combat, by the advice of

his council, and banished the duke of Hereford for ten years, and the duke of Norfolk for life. The latter never returned to England, but died at Venice, on his route from Jerusalem, in the 1st of King Henry IV., as is supposed of the plague, though many have asserted of grief, when he was buried in that city, being, at the period of his death, possessed of vast estates in different counties, among which was this manor of Ryarsh. In his descendants it continued down to John duke of Norfolk, who died at his castle of Framingham, in Norfolk, in the 15th of Edward IV., and was buried in the abbey of Thetford, leaving by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of John Talbot, earl of Shrewsbury, a sole daughter and heir, Anne, then an infant, afterwards married to Richard duke of York, second son of Edward IV. She, however, dying without issue, the inheritance of this family was divided between the Howard's and the Berkeley's, descended from Margaret and Isabel, daughters of Thomas Mowbray, first duke of Norfolk; and a division of their great estates was made between their heirs in the 14th of Henry VII. After that period the manor of Ryarsh was alienated to one of the Nevill's, lords Abergavenny, when Henry was found to die possessed of it in the 29th of Elizabeth, since which it has remained in the latter family.

The manor of Ryarsh is held of the manor of Swanscombe, by castle-guard to the castle of Rochester.

Carew's Court, now generally called Callis Court, is a manor in this parish, for many descents the inheritance of the family of that name, which was seated at Beddington, in Surrey. With that line it remained till the reign of Henry VI., A.D. 1433, when Nicholas Carew, of Beddington, alienated it to Thomas Watton, who settled it on his nephew, William Wotton, esq. of Addington, and his descendants, in the reign of Charles II., sold it to Edward Walsingham, gent., who bore for his arms, *A chevron between three cinque-foils*, several of which family lie buried in Ryarsh church. His descendant, Mr. Edward Walsingham, of this place, dying without issue male, his daughter Elizabeth conveyed the estate in marriage to Sir Edward Austen, of Boxley abbey, bart., who died possessed of the same in 1760, and by will devised it to his wife's cousin, John, son of Nicholas Amhurst, in tail general, with several remainders, subject to the life and future devise of his wife, Lady Austen, who, at her de-

cease, confirmed her husband's bequest of this manor, upon which John Amhurst, esq. of Boxley abbey, became possessed of this estate.

Part of the bishop of Rochester's manor of Halling appears to have extended into Ryarsh, that dignitary having had a grange there.

Ryarsh is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to St. Martin, is a small building, with a tower steeple, but contains nothing remarkable.

The vicarage was a discharged living, of the clear yearly value of £40, the annual tenths whereof were 17s.

In 1821 there were sixty dwellings in the parish of Ryarsh; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 182, females 177, making a total of 359 souls.

Leyborne lies eastward from Ryarsh, and is frequently, though corruptly, called *Laborne*. In old records it was designated *Leleburne*, and *Lilleborne*, and appears to have assumed that title from the little brook or bourn that runs through this parish, *Lytlan* signifying, in old English, little or small, *quasi Lytlanborne*.

The parish of Leyborne is situated both pleasantly and healthily, about one mile square, and lies low, the soil being very fertile. The Addington brook runs through the south and east sides of this district, and near the latter turns a mill called the Leyborne mill. Close to the southern boundary is the high road from London, through Wrotham to Maidstone, the twenty-ninth milestone being nearly opposite to Town Malling.

Leyborne castle, and the church contiguous, are in the eastern part of the parish, not far from the brook; and the pleasant mansion and paddock grounds, called the Grange, about a mile thence, are at the western bounds, between which and the brook southward, there are some gentle hills and dales.

As an instance of the fertility of the soil of this parish for hops, Hasted states that a cottager who lived in Sir Henry Hawley's rents, had half an acre of land belonging to his humble dwelling, which in 1784 produced a crop of forty-five hundred

of hops, which sold for £145, having realised a complete fortune for the poor countryman.

This place was once part of the possessions of bishop Odo, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in the record of Domesday, and afterwards granted by the crown to Sir William de Arsick.

How long it remained in that name we do not find, but in the reign of Richard I. it was in the possession of the family of the Leyborne's, which bore for its arms, *Azure, six lions rampant, argent, sometimes three*, as they were painted in the windows of Newington church, near Sittingbourne; about which period they erected a *castellated mansion* here, the ruins of which are still visible.

Sir Roger de Leyborne, with many other Kentish knights, accompanied Richard I. to the siege of Ascalon, in Palestine, who died before the 10th year of that reign, leaving a son, Roger de Leyborne.

In the 36th of the ensuing reign of Henry III. he slew in combat Ernolf de Mounteney, at a meeting of the knights of the Round Table, held at Walden, in Essex, his lance having pierced Sir Ernolf's throat, under the helmet, which had no collar, and the spear having no socket on the point, it was supposed to have been done purposely, in revenge for a broken leg Robert de Leyborne had received from Mounteney when engaged at a former tournament.

On the king recovering his royal power, by his victory at Evesham, he had several important offices and lucrative grants conferred upon him from time to time, and, among others, that of warden of the Cinque Ports, in the 50th year of the above reign, having the guard of the sea coasts in Kent, in opposition to the inhabitants of the Cinque Ports, who then stood out against the king. This Sir Roger de Leyborne expended large sums from his private purse in the above service, wherefore the sheriff of this county was ordered to reimburse him out of the county profits. He died in the 56th year of the same reign, leaving William de Leyborne his son and heir, who in the 14th of the succeeding prince had the honour of entertaining King Edward I. at his mansion here, as appears by the patent rolls in the Tower, of that year. Twelve months after, he was styled the king's admiral, and made constable of the castle of Pevensey;

after which he obtained a grant of the wardship and marriage of Geoffrey, son and heir of William de Say, deceased, who subsequently married Idonea, his daughter.

In the 28th of the above reign, Henry and Simon de Leyborne, two cadets of this family, attended the king into Scotland, at the famous siege of Carlaverock, for which service they received the honour of knighthood, having been summoned to parliament from the reign of Edward I. to that of Edward II.

He died that year, leaving Juliana, his granddaughter, his heir; but it appears by the escheat rolls, that he had enfeoffed his son, Thomas de Leyborne, in this manor, some time before his death, who died during his father's lifetime, in the 35th of Edward I., possessed of this manor at the period of his death.

It appears, from Cotton's records, that there was an heir male left of this family, for John de Leyborne received a summons to Parliament in the 14th and 17th of Edward III., who seems to have been the same John de Leyborne who was appointed admiral of the northern seas in the 20th of Edward II. Juliana de Leyborne, the great Kentish heiress, so often mentioned as heir to her grandfather, became possessed of this manor in part of her vast property, and carried her estates, successively, to all her husbands; the last of whom was Sir William Clinton, of Maxtoke, ancestor to the lords Clinton and Say, earls of Lincoln, and dukes of Newcastle.

This marriage was, most probably, the cause of all his future honours and advancement, for, in the course of the following year, he was created governor of Dover castle, and summoned to Parliament among the barons of the realm; constituted admiral of the seas from the Thames westward; and, gaining still further favor with the king, was, by letters patent, created earl of Huntingdon.

He died possessed of this manor and castle, and was buried in the church of the priory of Maxtoke, which he had founded, leaving Juliana, his wife, surviving, by whom he had no issue. She died possessed of this manor and castle in her own right, and was interred in St. Augustine's monastery, near Canterbury; and upon her death, the property became escheated to the crown for want of heirs, either direct or collateral.

After the above period, the king, by charter, granted this manor and castle, with the advowson of the church of Leyborne,

to feoffees, for the endowment of his newly founded Cistertian abbey, called St. Grace's, near the Tower of London. These feoffees, after the death of King Edward, in compliance with his will, conveyed them to the abbot and monks there, and their successors, for a term of years, who granted their interest therein to Sir Simon de Burley, knight of the Garter, and warden of the Cinque Ports. He having forfeited the estates, with his life, for high treason, in the 10th of Richard II., that prince granted the same to the monks in pure and perpetual alms, for ever, for the performance of certain religious purposes; who remained possessed of this property till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., when the whole was surrendered to the king.

The above prince, by letters patent, in his 31st year, under his great seal, granted and sold, in exchange, among other premises, to Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, the manor of Leyborne; which grant was, in consequence of an indenture previously made between the king and the archbishop, enrolled in the Augmentation office.

This estate did not remain long with the primate, who, within a few years, was obliged to comply with the avarice of the king, and passed the property back to the crown in the 37th year of that reign, when the monarch immediately granted the manor and castle to Sir Edward North, chancellor of the court of Augmentation, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service.

In the 6th of Edward VI., the latter possessor alienated this manor, with its appurtenances, to Robert Gosnold, who, in the reign of Elizabeth, passed away this manor and castle to Robert Godden; and he, by a fine levied under the same princess, settled them on Thomas Godden, his son and heir. A few years after, the last-mentioned owner passed them away by sale to Sir John Leveson, or Lewson, of Whorne's place, in Cookstone, and his son, Sir Richard Leveson, knight of the Bath, of Trentham, in Staffordshire, in the reign of James I., alienated them to Henry Clerke, recorder of Rochester. He died possessed of them about the time of the decapitation of Charles I., and was succeeded by his son and heir, Sir Francis Clerke, who devised them by will to his kinsman, Gilbert Clerke, esq. of Derbyshire, who sold them to Captain Saxby, of the Grange, in this parish. Thence they were passed by sale, in 1724, to Francis Whitworth, esq., youngest brother of Charles lord Whitworth, of Salop,

who bore for his arms *Argent, a bend sable, in the sinister chief, a garb gules.* Lord Whitworth was the eldest of six sons.

Francis Whitworth, esq. resided at the Grange, in this parish, and dying in 1742, was succeeded by his son and heir, Charles, afterwards Sir Charles Whitworth. He had several children, of whom the eldest son, Sir Charles Whitworth, was knight of the Bath, and envoy extraordinary to the court of Russia. In 1776 he, together with his eldest son, conveyed this estate by sale to James Hawley, M.D. and F.R.S., descended from a Somersetshire family. Dr. Hawley died in 1777, and was buried in a vault in Leyborne church, which he had built for himself and family, having borne for his arms, *Vert, a saltier, engrailed argent.* He was succeeded by his son, Henry, who was created a baronet, and resided at the Grange, in this parish, having had several children by his two wives.

A court-leet and court-baron is held for this manor.

There are some remains of the ancient buildings of Leyborne castle still existing, namely, the stonework of the principal entrance, with great part of the circular towers on either side, and other fragments of arches and walls. By the remaining foundations, and the traces of the moat, this castle does not appear to have been very extensive; on its site, many years back, there stood a dwelling-house, which appears to have been for some generations the habitation of a gentleman's family, one of which, Mr. Thomas Golding, kept his shrievalty here in 1703, who bore for his arms, *Argent, a cross, voided between four lions passant, guardant gules.* This dwelling, however, has been for many years past converted into a farm-house.

The Grange is a seat in this parish, which, in the reign of Elizabeth, was the estate and residence of Robert Quintin, otherwise Oliver, descended from Anselinus, or Anselmus de Quintin, who lived in the reign of Edward III. His descendant, William Quintin, was of Seale, in this county, where he purchased lands, called Hilks, in the beginning of the reign of Henry VI. His son, Thomas, was frequently styled Thomas Quintin, son of Oliver, wherefore his son, John, acquired the name of Quintin, otherwise Oliver; by which title he styled himself in his will, dated A.D. 32d of Henry VIII. His descendant, Robert, transposed his name, calling himself Robert Oliver, otherwise Quintin, and possessed this seat, where he

resided; as did his grandson, Robert, who used the name of Oliver only. He bore for his arms, *Ermine on a fess, gules, three lions rampant, or*, and died in the reign of Charles II., leaving Juliana, his sole daughter and heir, who carried this seat in marriage to Edward Covert, of Sussex, by whose only daughter it went in like manner, to Mr. Henry Saxby. His son, Captain Saxby, resided here, and alienated the estate to Francis Whitworth, esq., who rebuilt the Grange, and greatly improved the adjoining grounds, of which he died possessed in 1742. His only son and heir, Sir Charles Whitworth, together with his eldest son, who was next in entail, then passed away this seat, in 1776, with the whole of his property in this parish, to James Hawley, M.D., whose only son, Sir Henry Hawley, bart., afterwards possessed the same.

LEYBORNE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, a small building, stands in the south-east part of the parish, and is dedicated to Sts. Peter and Paul.

At a place called *Comp*, lying mostly in Wrotham parish, there is a small house and barn-yard, with 130 acres of land, being parcel of Leyborne rectory, esteemed within this parish, those of Ryarsh and Addington intervening; on a part of the same are the remains of an ancient building, supposed to have been a chapel of ease to the church of Leyborne.

This rectory was valued in the king's books at £17 13 4, the yearly tenths being £1 15 4.

In 1821, there were fifty-three dwellings in the parish of Leyborne; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 143, females 157, making a total of 300 souls.

EASTWARD from LEYBORNE lies EAST MALLING, called in the *Textus Roffensis* MEALLINGES, and in Domesday record, METLINGES.

This parish is most delightfully situated, being both pleasant and healthy: the soil is chiefly sandy, covering the quarry rock; to the south it is rather more loamy, with a red brick earth; but the major part is extremely fertile, both for corn as well as hops and fruit. The high road from London, through Wrotham, to

Maidstone, crosses this parish at the thirtieth milestone, the hamlet of Larkfield Street, which gives name to this hundred, being situated here, where a fair is held, on St. James's day. Hence this parish extends, northward, for more than a mile, to the river Medway, the banks of which are beautifully shaded by young oaks. Here is also a hamlet, called *New Hythe*, situated close to the river, so denominated from the shipping here, and the relading of goods that takes place ; the civil liberty of the corporation of Maidstone claims over this district. A chapel once existed here, called New Hythe chapel, suppressed in the reign of Edward VI., at which period it was valued at 11s. yearly; the first founder whereof is not known. Daily masses were said in this place of worship.

Adjoining the southern side of the high road and hamlet of Larkfield, is the small but beautifully situated park of Bradbourn, the plantations of which, as well as the stream that flows through it, are so judiciously and ornamentally disposed round the mansion, as to render the same, for its size, one of the most elegant residences in these parts. Close to the southern pale of the park, is the village of East Malling, at the north end of which is a handsome house that belonged to Sir John Twisden, with the church and parsonage ; thence is a street, called Mill street, traversing the village, containing some tolerably good houses, one of which was the property of James Tomlyn, esq. The ground then rises up to East Malling heath, on the entrance to which is the appearance of a Roman *tumulus*. On this heath, which lies upon elevated ground, being a pleasant spot, though surrounded on the east and west sides by large tracts of coppice wood, are kilns for making bricks and tiles. Teston park bounds the south-west corner, and the road thence to Town Malling and Ofham leads along the southern part through the woods.

At the survey of Domesday, this place was part of the possessions of the archbishop of Canterbury, under the title of whose lands it was entered in that record.

The manor of East Malling was given, not many years after the Conquest, by Anselm archbishop of Canterbury, by the name of *Purvas Meallingas*, to the nunnery of the adjoining parish of West Malling, founded by Gundulph bishop of Rochester, his contemporary. In the 37th of Edward I., the abbess of Malling claimed several liberties within this manor;

and in the 21st year of the same reign, she further demanded its possession in view of frankpledge, assize of bread and ale, and gallows, which she found her church possessed of at the time of her coming to possession of the same; and those privileges were granted to her by the jury.

In the reign of Richard II. the temporalities of the abbess of Malling, in this parish, and also those of Town Malling, were valued at £45.

This monastery being dissolved under Henry VIII. and surrendered to that monarch, he soon after granted it, in exchange for other premises, to Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, to hold by knight's service; which grant was inrolled in the Augmentation office.

The manor of East Malling, and the premises before mentioned, were again exchanged with the crown in the reign of Elizabeth; soon after whose accession she granted this manor in lease to Sir Henry Brook, otherwise Cobham, fifth son of George lord Cobham; after which it was, in like manner, possessed by one Pierpoint, and subsequently Hugh Cartwright, esq., who bore for his arms, *Argent on a fess, engrailed sable, three cinquefoils of the first.* On his decease, his widow, Mrs. Jane Cartwright, one of the seventeen daughters of Sir John Newton, became entitled to this estate, and carried her interest to her second husband, Sir James Fitz-James, who passed it away to Sir Humphrey Delind, who soon after alienated it to Sir Robert Brett, of Somersetshire. He died in 1726, leaving an only son, Henry, who also departed this life in 1609, when, the following year, the king granted this manor *in fee* to John Rayney, esq.; which grant was further confirmed to Sir John, his eldest son, in the reign of Charles I. Sir John Rayney was of Wrotham place, and created a baronet of Nova Scotia in 1641, whose son, of the same name, passed this property away by sale to Thomas Twisden, esq., afterwards knighted and created a baronet.

He afterwards seated himself at Bradbourn, in this parish; and in his descendants, baronets, who were also residents there, the estate has continued down to Sir John Papillon Twisden, bart. of Badbourn, who ultimately possessed the same.

There is a court-leet and court-baron held for this manor.

Bradbourn is a seat in this parish, long the residence of a gentleman's family, having been formerly accounted a manor,

which, in the reign of Henry VIII., was in the possession of the family of the Isley's, of Sundridge, in this county; in which line it continued till Sir Henry Isley, in the 31st year of that reign, exchanged it with the king for other premises.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the property was possessed by a family of the name of Manningham; the last of which name residing here was Richard Manningham, esq., who, about the year 1656, alienated Bradbourn to Thomas Twisden, esq., son of Sir William Twisden, bart. of Roydon hall, in East Peckham, and of the Lady Anne Finch, his wife. On the restoration of Charles II. he was knighted; and in 1666, created a baronet, when he resided at this seat, the grounds of which he laid out in a park; and died in 1683, aged eighty-one, leaving several sons and daughters. The eldest of the former succeeded him in title and estate, and resided at Bradbourn, who died in 1703, leaving three sons and two daughters; when he was succeeded by the eldest son, Sir Thomas Twisden, bart., who was of Bradbourn, and served in Parliament for this county under George I. He left four sons, Sir Thomas, his successor; Sir Roger, who succeeded his brother; and John; and William, who died. He departed this life in 1728, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Thomas Twisden, before mentioned, who died at Grenada, in Spain, in 1737, unmarried, when this estate devolved to his brother, Sir Roger Twisden, bart., who resided at Bradbourn, which he so much improved, that there are few seats of private gentlemen that exceed it in convenience, beauty, or elegance.

He served in Parliament for this county under George II., and having resided here, bearing the most exemplary character, died in 1772, and was buried, with his ancestors, in East Malling church.

He left three sons, Roger; William, who resided at Hythe; and John Papillon Twisden; when he was succeeded by his son, Sir Roger, of Bradbourn, who died in 1779, leaving a widow, who, after his decease, was delivered of a daughter; when his surviving brother, Sir John Papillon Twisden, bart., succeeded him both in title and estate. He resided at Bradbourn, and in 1782 married a daughter of Admiral Sir Francis Geary, of Polsden, in Surrey, bart., by whom he had a son, born in 1784.

EAST MALLING is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and, being a *peculiar* of the archbishop of Canterbury, within the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, dedicated to St. James, is a handsome building, with a square tower at the west end ; but contains nothing worthy to be recorded.

The vicarage was valued in the king's books at £10 8 4; the yearly tenths being £1 0 10.

The vicar of East Malling is always entitled to officiate as one of the ministers who preach at the lecture founded in Town Malling church, having to deliver one sermon every fortnight, on a Saturday, being the market-day, when he receives 10s. for each discourse so promulgated.

In 1821 there were 219 dwellings in the parish of East Malling; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 700, females 703, making a total of 1403 souls.

WESTWARD from *East Malling* lies the town and parish of WEST MALLING, now commonly called TOWN MALLING.

It is written in Domesday *Mallengetis*, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, MELLINGES. In many deeds after the Conquest, it was styled *Millinges Parva*, to distinguish it from East Malling, then the largest and most noted village of the two.

The town and parish of West Malling, with the exception of the borough of St. Leonard, which is under the jurisdiction of the constables of the hundred of Larkfield, is subservient to that of its own constables, of which there are two chosen annually.

The parish of Town Malling occupies a pleasant and healthy situation, lying on high ground, and though dry, is well watered. The soil in the north is sandy, the rest being a loam, covering the quarry rock, which is very fertile. The high road from London, through Wrotham, to Maidstone, at the twenty-ninth milestone, leads along the northern boundaries of this parish, being called, in the grant of this place to the bishop of Rochester by King Edward, the *military way*, no doubt from its having been used as such by the Romans. Southward, the ground gently rises, and at less than a quarter of a mile distant, is the town of Malling, well built, containing many good houses, the

streets being wide and neatly paved. At the east end is the abbey, the approach to which is by a venerable gateway, and notwithstanding the whole of the fabric was nearly pulled down and rebuilt by Mr. Honywood, yet many of the ancient buildings and offices belonging to the same are still remaining, and used as such at the present time. A handsome tower of the church, the front of which is decorated with intersecting arches and zigzag ornaments, similar to those on the west front of Rochester cathedral, is still remaining, as is also an ancient chapel or oratory, now converted into a dwelling-house.

From the foundations discovered in levelling the ground by Mr. Honywood, it appears that this abbey consisted of two quadrangles or courts, with cloisters, and a spacious hall; and that the church had another tower, of the same size as that still standing. The burial-ground seems to have been on the south side of the church, as, when digging in that direction, great quantities of human bones were thrown up, and two stone coffins enclosing skeletons, the lids being without inscriptions, but each ornamented by a cross, having a quartre-foil pierced at the upper end, the stem of which was crossed more than once with foliage; there were also several rings and trinkets; some old coins having been also found at different periods, in clearing away the rubbish.

Over the west end of the grand gateway, which stands at the entrance into the precinct of the abbey from the town, at the western extremity of the building, is carved, in stone, a heart emitting drops of blood, and on the reverse, a shield, bearing *Ermine, a crozier in bend, sinister on a chief, three amulets.*

In the meadows above the gardens, are large square excavations, where the fish ponds of the monastery were formerly situated.

The precincts of this religious house are washed by a rivulet of excellent clear water, which rising in the hamlet of St. Leonard, runs by the house, and traverses the gardens, whence gushing through the wall in a cascade, it crosses the road towards the gardens that belonged to the Rev. Mr. Brook. There is a view of this abbey in Grose's Antiquities.

Near the abbey gate is a good mansion, having a large garden and canal, with pleasure-grounds behind, stretching to the London road. It was for many years the residence of the family

of the Brooke's; from which name it passed, by the will of Joseph Brooke, esq., who died in 1792, to the Rev. John Kenward Shaw, brother of Sir Gregory Kenward Shaw, bart., who afterwards, in pursuance of the above will, and by the royal licence, assumed the name of Brook, and resided there. A little farther westward, is a very ancient stone building, called the Old Gaol, with narrow Gothic windows, the walls being of great thickness. It is reported to have been the prison belonging to the abbey, and has since been used as an oast for the drying of hops. About the middle of the street stands the church; not far from which is a good dwelling, late the residence of Benjamin Hubble, esq., whose family had been inhabitants of this town for some length of time, several of whom lie buried in this church. He died in 1780, leaving two daughters his coheirs, one of whom married Augustus Douce, esq., who resided there. Farther southward is the hamlet of St. Leonard, now constituting part of the town, and called St. Leonard's Street, wherein is an ancient seat, some years back the residence of Charles Stewart, esq., whose father, Admiral Stewart, purchased it of Judge Twisden. This district once contained a *cell*, belonging to the abbey, whereto a chapel was annexed; the whole, however, has been long since desecrated and in ruins. The square tower of the chapel, standing in the next field south-west from the late Mr. Stewart's house, being all that now remains. It was purchased by the latter gentleman, some years since, of Sir John Honywood, in exchange for other premises near the abbey, and is now converted into a stowage for hops. Mr. Stewart died in 1780, and was succeeded here by the Hon. Admiral John Forbes, who died possessed of this property. A market is held in the principal high street every Saturday, which is plentifully supplied and well frequented; and there are also three annual fairs. The whole of Town Malling is well watered by fine springs, which, after supplying the place and abbey, flow in one stream, and passing northward, through the grounds once belonging to the family of the Brooke's, cross the high Maidstone road, and thence meander into Addington brook, just above Leyborne mill.

About half a mile south-east from the abbey, is a good modern-built residence, called *New Barne*, which formerly belonged to Mr. Alchin, from whom it passed to the Graham's, who resided there.

Above St. Leonard Street runs the high road from Teston, over east Malling heath, through this parish, to Offham; southward of which, the district extends into the large tract of coppice woods, as far as West Peckham and Mereworth.

Dr. William Briggs, an eminent physician, resided at Town Malling, where he died in 1704. He was a great traveller in foreign countries, and highly esteemed for professional skill, as well as erudition, of which his several works are sufficient testimonials. He was physician in ordinary to King William and St. Thomas's hospital, and bore for his arms, *Gules, three bars gemelles, or, a canton sable.*

This place was given, in 945, by Edmund, king of the Angles and of Mercia, to Burhric bishop of Rochester, where it did not long continue, being wrested from that prelate in the time of the Danish wars. William the Conqueror having attained the crown, gave it to Odo, bishop of Bayeux, from whom it was recovered, together with the church of Mallinges, in the solemn assembly of the whole county, held on that occasion, by the king's command, at Penenden heath, in 1076, by Archbishop Lanfranc, who subsequently restored it to Bishop Gundulph, and the church of St. Andrew's, which gift was confirmed by Archbishops Anselm and Boniface. In the survey of Domesday, taken four years afterwards, it was entered under the general title of lands belonging to the see of Rochester.

Bishop Gundulph, in the 4th of William Rufus, A.D. 1090, having founded an abbey of Benedictine nuns, in this parish, in honour of the Virgin Mary, gave to the same this manor and church; and although, about a hundred years after having been erected, it was, together with the adjoining village, destroyed by fire, nevertheless the structure was soon after re-edified, and continued to increase and enjoy a flourishing state.

In the 7th of Edward I., A.D. 1278, the abbess of Malling claimed sundry liberties in this parish, by grant from Henry III., as well as a weekly market; she also demanded, by another grant from King John, right of *free warren* in all her lands at Malling, and also to have fairs in this parish.

By these grants, this spot, which on its first foundation had been open fields, with scarcely an inhabitant, became exceedingly populous, from the numbers who flocked thither from all parts, and, erecting dwellings, increased the village to a conside-

rable extent, which being also well suited for trade, proved no small emolument to the nuns. This place, therefore, soon lost the name of *Malling Parva*, which was, in consequence, transferred to the neighbouring parish of East Malling, as appears by some grants of that period.

In the 15th of Edward I. the temporalities of the abbess, in this parish, and East Malling, were valued at £45.

There was an annual pension of ten pounds of wax, and one boar, paid by the abbess to the bishop of Rochester, as an acknowledgment of her subjection to that see.

In 1321, the bishop of Rochester, at the request of the king, visited this monastery to hear the complaints of the nuns against the abbess, whom they declared was effecting the ruin of their nunnery by her bad management: she was sister of Bartholomew de Badlesmere: and in consequence compelled to resign her office, when the lady Agnes de Leyborne was appointed in her place. Three years after the above period, she died; when the bishop, by the unanimous request of the community, appointed Lora de Retling, abbess, though much against his will, knowing her to be a very ignorant woman, and wholly unfit for the office. He, however, inhibited her, giving a *corredy* to her servant maid, as had been customary, and sequestering their common seal, forbidding the use of the same without his licence.

A great pestilence happening in 1348, the bishop nominated two abbesses, who both died, at which time there were no more than four professed nuns remaining in this monastery. The bishop, in consequence, committed the custody of the spirituals and temporals to two of those sisters, as there was no one fit to undertake the duties of abbess.

In 1493, under Henry VII., Joane Moone was abbess of this monastery, which continued in the same state until the period of the dissolution under Henry VIII., when Margaret Vernon officiated as abbess, at which time the establishment was valued at £250 10 2½ annual rent, as recorded by Speed, and £218 4 2½ clear value, according to Dugdale; an annual pension of £40 was also granted to the abbess, while to eleven nuns was given yearly from £3 6 8 to £2 13 4 each, for their lives.

Henry VIII., by letters patent, granted and sold in exchange, among other premises, the site of this abbey to Archbishop Cranmer.

In the reign of Elizabeth these premises were again exchanged with the crown, when she granted them on lease to Sir Henry Brooke, otherwise Cobham, fifth son of Lord Cobham, after which they were held by the same possessors as the manor of East Malling, before mentioned, when ultimately, after the death of Sir Robert Brett, A.D. 1621, King James granted the manor of West or Town Malling, with the precinct of Ewell annexed, and all their appurtenances, to John Rayney, esq., which donation was further confirmed to his eldest son, Sir John Rayney, under Charles I. He was of Wrotham, and created a baronet of Nova Scotia in 1641, whose son, about the time of the Restoration, conveyed these premises to Isaac Honywood, gent., of Hampstead, Middlesex, whose second son, Isaac, succeeded him in this manor and estate. Frazer Honywood, esq. of Hampstead, his only son and heir, rebuilt the abbey house of Malling, in the Gothic taste, at a very considerable expense, making it one of the seats for his residence, and died possessed of the property in 1764, leaving no issue. He gave them, as well as the rest of his estates, by will to his kinsman, Sir John Honywood, and his heirs male, with divers remainders to the family of the Honywood's; Sir John of that name is since dead, and his grandson, Sir John, afterwards possessed this manor, with the seat of Malling abbey appertaining thereto. The family of the Say's anciently possessed the manor of Clements, in Ewell, in this parish, and Geoffry de Say held it in the 7th of Edward II., as half a knight's fee.

His son, Geoffry de Say, paid aid for it in the 20th of Edward III., as half a knight's fee, which John at Forde had before held in Ewell, in the parish of Malling, of the bishop of Rochester. This manor then passed to the name of Coveney, but in the reign of Henry VIII. it was in the possession of Mr. William Fowle, since which it has gradually sunk into such obscurity, that neither the site nor the owners of the estate, can be traced, even after the most diligent inquiries.

Town Malling is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and gives name to the *deanery* of Malling, wherein it is situated. The church, a handsome building, with an elegant spire steeple, is dedicated to St. Mary, but contains nothing worthy of notice.

In 1778 some of the main pillars of the body gave way, when the whole roof fell in, leaving only the steeple and chancel standing; it was afterwards repaired by a brief.

The church of West Malling was given, with the manor, to the church of Rochester, by King Edmund, in 945, and having subsequently been wrested thence, was again restored by Archbishop Lanfranc to Bishop Gundulph, in the time of the Conqueror, who bestowed it upon the monastery of Malling, on its foundation, which gift was confirmed by several succeeding kings and archbishops of Canterbury.

The parsonage, prebend, and advowson of the vicarage were on the dissolution of the abbey, under Henry VIII., surrendered to the king, who granted them to Archbishop Cranmer, to hold by knight's service, after which the whole passed to Sir John Rayney, who sold them to judge Twisden, whose descendant, Sir John Papillon Twisden, bart., afterwards possessed them.

The vicarage was valued in the king's books at £10, and the yearly tenths at £1.

In 1821 there were 219 dwellings in the parish of Town Malling; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 557, females 648, making a total of 1205 souls.

Westward from Town Malling lies Offham, called by the Saxons, *Offaham*, which name it most probably derived from having been once part of the possessions of Offa, king of Mercia, the most renowned monarch of the Saxon heptarchy; *ham*, in Saxon, signifying a village or dwelling, from which, probably, and the *Roman military way* having passed through, or at least very near this place, was then, and had been for a long period, a village of some note.

This parish seems to have been formerly of much greater account than at present: although the road from the Weald of Kent, through Wrotham, to London, traverses the village, it is lonely, and otherwise a district little frequented or known; and the whole, from being enveloped in wood, presents a gloomy appearance.

The village, on an eminence, is situated round a broad green, having the parsonage on one side, and the church and court lodge at a small distance northward.

On Ofham green stands a *quintin*, an instrument of very rare occurrence, but much used in former times by the youths, as well to try their own activity, as the swiftness of their horses in running at the machine. It consists of an upright beam, and another crosspiece, moving in a swivel, broad at one end, and pierced full of holes, a bag of sand being hung at the other extremity, which swings round on being moved by any blow.

This pastime was followed by the youths on horseback, who ran at the quintin full gallop, in order to strike the broad part in the transverse beam, with all the force possible; so that he who by chance missed it, was greeted with loud peals of laughter, while he who succeeded in striking it, was compelled to use the utmost speed, lest he should receive a sound blow on his neck from the bag of sand, which instantly swang round from the other end of the quintin. The great design of this sport was to try the agility both of horse and man, and to break the board; which, when accomplished, the performer of the feat was accounted victor of that day's sport.

When Queen Elizabeth was at the earl of Leicester's, at Kenilworth castle, among other sports for her entertainment, the running at the quintin was exhibited in the castle yard, by the country lads and lasses assembled on that day to celebrate a rural wedding.

Dr. Plot, in his natural history of Oxfordshire, says, this amusement was followed in his time at Deddington, in Oxfordshire; and Dr. Kennet, in his Parochial Antiquities, states that it was equally practised at Blackthorne. It is supposed to have been, originally, a Roman exercise, left by that people in this island on their departure.

The quintin stands opposite the dwelling-house of an estate bound to keep it in repair; the property in question has been for nearly three centuries in the name of Tresse, the last of which line, Mr. Thomas Tresse, died possessed of it unmarried, in 1737. It afterwards became the property of Mr. William Currant, who resided there, and held it in right of his wife, a daughter of Mr. Thomas Coleman, descended from a sister of the above Mr. Thomas Tresse. This name of Tress, or Tresse, is supposed to

be the same as that of Tracy, but altered by corruption and time; if so, the families of Tresse, so long settled at West Malling, and this place, might very probably be branches of that of Tracy, possessors of the manor, still bearing their name at Newington, near Sittingbourne. In the reign of Henry III. they bore for their arms, *Or, two bends, between nine escalops, gules.*

From the village, the ground descends for a mile down to the Maidstone road, to London, which passes its northern boundary. Here the soil is a deep sand, which, nearer the village, approaches the quarry rock; adjoining the southern side is the great tract of woods, called the Hurst woods, extending hence nearly two miles, as far as West Peckham and Mereworth.

It is reported that Jack Straw, a principal companion of Wat Tyler, in the rebellion that occurred in the time of Richard II., was born at a small cottage at Pepinstraw, in this parish, whence he assumed his surname.

Athulf, or Ethelwulph, king of England, son of Egbert, about 832, gave *Ofnehamme*, at the instance of Archbishop Ceolnoth, to the church of Canterbury. This place was wrested from that church during the troublesome times that followed, and seems afterwards to have been held by two different owners. However, the whole, by the record of Domesday, was part of the possessions of Odo, bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in that instrument.

On the disgrace of the prelate, they were confiscated to the crown, and became the property of a family which assumed its name of De Ofham from this property, William de Ofham having held the manor, with Godwell, Snodbean, and Pepinstraw, and the advowson of the church of Ofham, under Henry III.

In the reign of Edward I., Stephen de Pencestre, who had married Christiana, sister of William de Ofham, enfeoffed Richard de Courtone, of an annual rent of assize, and the third part of the advowson of the church of Ofham. Richard de Courtone seems at that time to have been possessed of the other parts of this manor, a third of which was claimed of him by Matilda, another sister of William de Ofham. Soon after the above period, Robert, brother of Richard de Courtone, passed away the above annual rent, and the third part of the advowson, to Ralph de Ditton, who, together with the said Richard de

Courtone, (for he still remained owner of Godwell,) were found to be possessed of Ofham manor and its appendages, in the 7th of Edward II.

Ralph de Ditton, senior, appears soon afterwards to have had the entire fee of this manor and appendages, excepting Godwell, and been also possessed of the whole advowson of Ofham; and, in the reign of Edward II., he granted to his daughter, Isabella, his manor of Ofham, in perpetual inheritance, rendering yearly the due and accustomed services of the chief lords of the fee. Owing to that circumstance, he received in hand one hundred marks sterling as a fine. Isabella de Ofham afterwards enfeoffed Sir John Chidocke in the manor and advowson, but this was in trust, on her marriage with Thomas de Plumsted, called Guodchepe, and accordingly he again assigned this manor and advowson back to the said Thomas, and Isabella, his wife.

Thomas de Plumsted appears to have assumed the name of De Ditton, in right of his wife, and paid aid for this manor in the book, for the collecting of which it is thus entered: "Of Thomas de Ditton, and John Melford, for one knight's fee, which Ralph de Ditton and Richard de Courtone held in Ofham, of the archbishop of Canterbury, of which John Melford holds one quarter of a knight's fee."

Thomas de Plumsted, otherwise Ditton, likewise called Thomas Guodchepe, survived his wife, Isabella, by whom he had a son and heir, Theobald, and died in the 21st year of that reign, possessed of this manor, leaving his second wife, Nichola, guardian to his son, then under age.

How long this estate remained in the above family, we have not ascertained; but find it soon after possessed by the Colepeper's of Aylesford.

Sir Richard Colepeper, of Oxenhoath, who was sheriff of this county in the reign of Edward IV., died possessed of the manor, with its appendages, Snodbean, and Pepingstraw, with the advowson of the church, in the 2d of Richard II., A.D. 1484. He left no male issue, when his three daughters became his coheirs, and they, in the reign of Henry VII., joined in the sale of this manor to Thomas Leigh, of Sibton, in Liminge, in this county. He left a son and heir, John Leigh, esq., who was of

Addington, in Surrey; and in the reign of Henry VIII., he exchanged it with the king, for other lands and premises. That monarch, in his 36th year, granted it to William Wilford, John Bennet, and George Briggs, citizens of London, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service.

The following year they alienated the above premises to John Tufton, esq. of Hothfield; in whose descendants, earls of Thanet, the manor of Ofham, with its appendages, continued down to the Right Hon. Sackville Tufton, earl of Thanet.

THE OTHER APPENDAGES of the manor of Ofham, called Godwell, remained in the possession of Robert de Courtone, and passed, soon after, to the name of Melford, when John de Melford paid aid for it in the 20th of Edward III., as one quarter of a knight's fee, which Richard de Courtone had before held of the archbishop of Canterbury.

His descendants continued owners of the manor of Godwell till the reign of Henry VI., when it was conveyed to one Browne, whose descendant, Sir Mathew Browne, of Beechworth castle, in Surrey, alienated it, about the latter end of the reign of Henry VIII., to Richard Nortop, otherwise Clerk, which additional name he acquired from his office of clerk of the Forest of Sherwood, in Nottinghamshire, when it became the family appellation, as the descendants afterwards wrote themselves at pleasure, Clerk or Nortop, having borne for their arms, *Argent, a cross, chequy, argent, and azure.* His descendant George Cleike, died possessed of this manor in the reign of James I., leaving seven daughters his coheirs, one of whom, Frances, married Mr. Thomas Dawell, who purchased the other six parts of his wife's sisters, and thus became entitled to the whole fee of this manor.

His son, of the same name, passed it away by sale, in the reign of Charles II., to Henry Streatfield, esq., of Chidingstone. In 1781 the estate was sold to Mr. John Smith, and he resided at this seat, on whose death it became the property of Mrs. Elizabeth Knell.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

OFHAM is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, stands about a quarter of a mile

northward from the village. It is a substantial building, consisting of one aisle and a chancel, having a tower steeple at the centre of the north side.

It was a discharged living in the king's books, of the clear yearly value of £40, the annual tenths being estimated at 12s.

In 1821 there were forty-six dwellings in the parish of Ofham; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 144, females 130, making a total of 274 souls.

Northward from Ofham lies Addington, written in Domesday *Eddingtune*, signifying, as we imagine, the town or territory of *Adda* or *Edda*, its ancient Saxon owner; *tun*, in that language, being a town enclosed by a hedge or fence.

The parish of Addington is not unpleasantly situated, the chief part lying on high ground, adjoining the Maidstone road, at the twenty-seventh milestone; not far distant from which is the rivulet that rises at Neupiker, in Wrotham, and flowing through this parish, is here called Addington brook, whence the house contiguous derives its name of St. Vincent, or Addington brook. It was erected, some years back, by Admiral William Parry, who resided there till his death, in 1779, leaving an only daughter, who carried it in marriage to Captain William Locker, late governor of Greenwich hospital.

Hence the ground rises, and at a small distance above, is the mansion and garden of Addington place, pleasantly situated on the side of the hill, having a lawn and avenue down to the road, from which it forms a conspicuous object. Behind and still higher stands the church and village, built round Addington green, over which the road leads from Trottesclive; and, westward of the latter spot, this parish joins both that and Wrotham. The soil consists of sand, covering the quarry rock, but the land is mostly poor and unfertile, especially towards the north and west, where the sand is deepest; in the latter is also a small green, called Addington common.

Here is an *Eilbourn*, or *Nailbourn*, as it is commonly called, the stream whereof breaks out with great impetuosity once in seven or eight years; it then directs its waters along a trench dug for the purpose, till it flows into the Leybourne rivulet,

turning the trout fish to a red colour, which are otherwise nearly white.

In a place called the *Warren*, about 500 paces northeastward from the church, on a little eminence, are the remains of several large stones, placed in an oval form, whereof seventeen may be easily traced, though from the distances between each, which are nearly equal, there must have been at least twenty to complete the oval, formed of only one row of stones: the sandiness of the soil has covered many, wherefore their distance can only be ascertained by thrusting a stick into the ground: such of the stones as are fallen, have been carried away by the inhabitants for different uses. These stones are of the same consistence as those at Stonehenge, and, being placed in the same form, appear as if originally intended to answer a similar purpose.

About 130 paces north-west of the above remains, is another heap of stones, tumbled inwards, heaped on one another: they originally consisted of six, and, in circuit, measure thirty-three paces.

Soon after the Conquest, this place became part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in the record of Domesday. On the disgrace of that prelate, it appears to have been held as one manor by William de Gurnay, and subsequently by Galiena de Gurnay, his grandchild. They were succeeded in the possession of this place by the family of Madeville, or *De Magna-Villa*, as the name was written in Latin; who held it of the line of Montchensie as capital lords of the fee.

This family, however, became extinct here in the following reign of Edward II., as we find that Roger del Escheker possessed it at the period alluded to, who assumed his name from his hereditary office of usher of the Exchequer, whence he was called Del Eschequer de la Chekere, and De Scaccario. John de la Chekere owned it under Edward III., and he was succeeded by Nicholas de Daggeworth, whose ancestor, John de Daggeworth, had married Maud, one of the sisters and coheirs of Simon del Eschequer. On the accession of King Richard II. the above Nicholas was constituted of his Privy Council, and subsequently steward of his Household, keeper of the Great Seal, and Treasurer of England. He bore for his arms, *Sable, a lion rampant, argent, crowned or, with proper difference.*

In the 20th of Edward III., John de la Chekere paid aid for this manor, which Robert de Scaccario had before held in Addington of Warine de Monchensie, as of his manor of Swanscombe. He alienated it, in that reign, to Sir Hugh de Segrave, knight batchelor, and he conveyed it to Richard Charles, who died in the 2d of Richard II., A. D. 1378, and lies buried in this church, leaving his brother's sons, Richard and John, his heirs.

Richard Charles, the eldest brother, possessed this manor, whose son, Robert Charles, dying without issue, his two sisters became his coheirs. Alice married William Snayth, and Joan, Richard Ormskirke; and, upon the division of their inheritance, this manor fell to the share of William Snayth, commonly called Snette, who was sheriff in the 9th of Henry IV. Two years after, he died, leaving an only daughter and heir, Alice, who carried this manor in marriage to Robert Wotton, who resided at Addington. He was descended from ancestors who held lands in the parish of Ridley under Edward III., and died possessed of the manor and patronage of the church of Addington in 1444.

His descendant, Thomas Watton, esq. of Addington, procured the *disgavelment* of his lands under Edward VI.; and in his descendants, residents here, this manor continued down to Edward Watton, esq. of Addington. He left an only daughter and heir, Elizabeth, who married Leonard Bartholomew, esq. of Oxenhoath, and she entitled him to this estate. By her he had two sons; Edmund, who died unmarried; and Leonard: and upon his death, she again possessed this estate, when it was once more conveyed by her in marriage to Sir Roger Twisden, bart. of Bradbourn, whom she also survived. Upon her demise, in 1775, she was succeeded in this property by her only surviving son by her first husband, Leonard Bartholomew, esq. who resided at Addington place, where he served the office of sheriff in 1790, and bore for his arms, *Or, three goats, erased sable;* and upon his decease, left an only daughter, married, in 1797, to the Hon. John Wingfield, brother of Lord Viscount Powerscourt.

There is a court-leet and court-baron held for the manor of Swanscombe, by castle-guard to the castle of Rochester.

ADDINGTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The

church has a handsome tower steeple at the west end, and is dedicated to St. Margaret, the present building having been erected in 1403, as appears by the following inscription on he wall:

> "In fourteen hundred and none,
> Here was neither stick nor stone:
> In fourteen hundred and three,
> The goodly building which you see."

The church of Addington has always been an appendage to the manor; it was valued in the king's books at £6 6 8, the yearly tenths being 12s. 8d.

In 1821 there were forty-three dwellings in the parish of Addington; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 113, females 115, making a total of 228 souls.

NORTHWESTWARD from ADDINGTON lies TROTTESCLIVE, otherwise called *Trosley;* so named, we imagine, from its situation, *quasi Trodes*-clif, that is, the *hilly tract,* this place being close at the foot of the great chalk hills extending across this county.

THE PARISH of Trottesclive is of no great extent, only containing about 1000 acres of land. The situation, though healthy, is far from pleasant or even desirable, and the soil extremely poor. The great ridge of chalk hills traverse this district; near the foot of which, though on high ground, is the village; having the church, and an ancient palace in another part, about a quarter of a mile distant, eastward.

The high road from Dartford, by Longfield, Hartley bottom, and Berry's Maple, leads through the parish, towards Ofham and Malling. Below the village, the soil is sandy, and above, consists of chalk. Upon the summit of the hills, it extends for more than a mile, along a dreary country, but thinly inhabited, and much covered by coppice wood; the soil, being a heavy land for tillage, consisting of an unfertile red earth, mixed with flint-stones, which causes the most unpleasant travelling.

In 788, Offa, king of the Mercians, gave a part of the land, containing six plough lands, called Trottesclive, to the church of St. Andrew's and the bishopric of the castle, which was

called *Hrofoscester*, to hold for ever, together with all rights and appurtenances belonging to the same. The bounds were, to the east and south, Boerlingen; on the west, Wrotham; and on the north, Meopaham; there also belonged to it, in different places, pannage of hogs in the Wealdberries, as, in the grant alluded to, is particularly specified.

The church of Rochester did not long possess this estate, as it was wrested from the same in the time of the Danish wars, which quickly followed; and continued alienated, until recovered by Archbishop Lanfranc, in the solemn assembly of the county, held at Penenden heath, in 1076, when he immediately restored it to Bishop Gundulph and the church of St. Andrew's. In the grand survey of Domesday, this place is entered under the general title of the bishop of Rochester's lands.

Soon after the above period, there was an episcopal palace erected at this place, the buildings of which had become so ruinous on Bishop Glanvil coming to this see, in 1185, that he was obliged to rebuild them, when he effected the same in a much more convenient style.

THERE WAS AN ESTATE in this parish, anciently accounted a manor, and also called the manor of *Trottesclive*, being held of the bishop of Rochester, in the 12th and 13th of King John, as appears by inquisition then taken by Roger de Cressi, as half a knight's fee. His descendant, Stephen de Cressi, in the same reign, possessed this manor, and likewise a park, called Cressy park and Le West park; who was soon after succeeded herein by Roger de Leyborne: but the estate seems, about this time, to have been vested in the crown, as Henry III. granted the manor of Trottesclive to his niece, Isabel, the illegitimate daughter of Richard earl of Cornwall, a younger son of King John. It remained but a few years with Isabel, who had espoused Lord Berkley, when the property passed to Roger de Leyborne, who having some claim to the manor of Leeds, against Robert de Crevequer, it was settled by the interposition of friends, and in consequence, the former granted his manors of Trottesclive and Flete wholly to Robert, son of Hamon de Crevequer, junior, and Ysude, his wife; in consideration of which, Robert had granted to him, by way of exchange, the manor of Leeds, with all its appurtenances, together with a moiety of the fees; but as the above manors of Trottesclive and Flete were not of equal

value to the manor of Leeds, he further granted 100s. rental in Redleghe.

Robert de Crevequer, in the reign of Edward I., released to John bishop of Rochester all his right in this manor of Trottesclive, with its appurtenances in Malling, Wrotham, and elsewhere, to hold to him, as in right of his church, for ever; and in consequence, the sum of fifty marks and one palfrey were given to the bishop, as a fine. This estate, now called *West court*, otherwise *Wrothom Water*, lying in the parishes of Trottesclive and Wrotham, continued part of the possessions of the bishop of Rochester, the lessee under that dignitary having been Mr. Whitaker.

TROTTESCLIVE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Rochester, and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to Sts. Peter and Paul, was always accounted an appendage to the manor, and as such, under the patronage of the bishop of Rochester. It was valued in the king's books at £10 2 11, the yearly tenths being £1 0 3½.

In 1821 there were forty-five dwellings in the parish of Trottesclive; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 120, females 123, making a total of 243 souls.

THE HUNDRED OF MAIDSTONE.

The next hundred southwestward of Chatham is Maidstone, which contains within its bounds the parishes of Boxley, Detling, Loose, Linton, East Farleigh, and East and West Barming, with the churches of the same, and part of the parishes of Bersted, Hunton, Marden, and Staplehurst.

It formerly also contained within its bounds *the town and parish of Maidstone*, which has long since been made a separate jurisdiction, having a constable of its own, the liberty of the corporation claiming over it. This hundred is written in Domesday record *Meddestan*, and in other records *Maydestane*.

In the 8th of King Edward II. the archbishop was lord of this hundred, and afterwards the Right Hon. Lord Romney.

THE TOWN AND PARISH OF MAIDSTONE.

Southwestward from Gillingham, the parish of Boxley only intervening, lies the parish and town of Maidstone, concerning the ancient name of which, writers have much differed.

Nennius, in his Catalogue of the Cities of Britain, tells us this place was called by the Britains *Caer Meguiad*, or, as others have it, *Medway*. Camden, Burton, Gale, and some few other historians, have supposed it to have been the Roman station, called by Antoninus, in his Itinerary, *Vagniacæ*, a name derived from the river which was at that epoch called Vaga; on which account they read the distances of the second Iter of Antoninus, *A Vallo ad Portum Ritupis*, as follows: *A Londinio, Noviomago*, M.P. X.; *Vagniacis*, M.P. XVIII.; *Durobrovis*, M.P. IX. If this place was the *Vagniacæ* of the Romans, and the above numbers be correct, it is situated much about the above distance from Keston, and not quite so much from Crayford, both of which places have been conjectured to be the ancient *Noviomagus;* and in that case, its distance from *Durobrovis*, or Rochester, will answer tolerably well. The word *Vagniacæ* is

supposed, by a learned etymologist, to have been corruptly written in the Itinerary for *Maduicæ*, being the same as *Medwaege* in the Saxon, and *Maduoguise* in the British tongues; whence, in process of time, it came to be called *Madis*, and *Ad Madum*, the river being styled *Mada* and *Madus*.

The Saxons afterwards called it *Medweyston* and *Medweaggeston*, that is, *Maduiacis oppidum*, according to Baxter; in English, Medway's Town, which name is written by contraction in Domesday *Meddestane*, as it is at present, *Maidstone*.

The parish of Maidstone is most advantageously situated near the banks of the river Medway, which directs its course through the same, being navigable by the contrivance of locks at this spot, and many miles higher up, as far as Tunbridge Town. Over the river is an unsightly bridge, very ancient, composed of seven arches, supposed to have been first erected by some of the archbishops, lords of the manor. It was repaired, in the reign of James I., by an assessment on the town and parish. The place is built on the two opposite hills rising immediately from the banks of the river, but the principal part is on the eastern side; beyond which, the hill rises still farther to Penenden heath, part of which is within this parish, and there joins those of Boxley and Detling. The soil is extremely fertile, being in general a loam, thinly spread over an entire bed of quarry stone, commonly called *Kentish ragstone;* towards the eastern part, it becomes a deep sand; in the south-east, about Sheppard's street and Goulds, there is some coppice wood; and beyond are the hamlets of Broadway, Willington street, and part of Maginford, within the bounds of this parish. The meadows on the banks of the river are much exposed to inundation by the sudden risings of the stream, after heavy rains, to the height of several feet perpendicular, which, however, as suddenly subside. Above the town, the course of the river, though it narrows considerably beyond the lock, just above the bridge, is, nevertheless, beautiful, and retains a depth of water from twelve to fourteen feet. About a mile above Maidstone, near the hamlets of Upper and Lower Tovil, the stream, which rises at Langley, having supplied a chain of mills, flows into the Medway. The former hamlet is situated on an eminence, commanding a pleasing view; the anabaptists having, in this romantic and rocky spot, established a burial-place for their

Drawn. by W. Bartlett.

Engraved by H. Adlard.

MAIDSTONE FROM THE WATER.

KENT.

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fraternity. At a small distance higher up the river, though on the opposite bank, is the hamlet of Fant, the principal house in which is called Fant house, and was the property of Mr. Fowle, who resided there ; and contiguous, is a pleasant seat, close to the river, that belonged to Robert Salmon, esq. of Eyhorne street. In the vicinity, the banks of the Medway are beautifully adorned by spreading oaks, while the surrounding country presents the appearance of a garden in the highest state of cultivation. The soil adjoining the town, and throughout the neighbourhood, is extremely prolific in hops ; there are also orchards of fruit and quantities of filberts, the former are very large, and the crops abundant, owing to the peculiar nourishment and warmth afforded to the roots of the plants from the fibres penetrating the crevices of the rock. Great part of the wealth and prosperity of Maidstone has arisen from the hop trade, most of the inhabitants of every degree possessing some hop grounds, and many fortunes have been acquired by that plant, which is supposed to have been introduced in these parts about the time of the Reformation, being earlier than in any other part of this county.

The town of Maidstone is pleasantly situated, about the middle of the county, thirty-five miles from London, and a little more from Dover. It is screened by the surrounding hills, rising from the beautiful valley through which the Medway runs. It is justly noticed for the dryness of the soil, and the excellence of its water, which contribute greatly to the salubrity and healthiness of the situation, its ascent keeping it constantly clean and dry. The state of this town, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, may be known by the return made in the 8th year of her reign, whereby it appeared that there was then a mayor and aldermen, 294 inhabited houses, four landing-places, five hoys and ships, and twenty-two persons wholly occupied in the trade of merchandise. Since that period the place has been continually increasing in extent and inhabitants. The principal parts of the town stand on the side of a hill, declining towards the west and south ; it extends about a mile from north to south, and three quarters from east to west. It was newly paved, lighted, and otherwise improved, in 1792 : though the buildings are in general ancient, yet there are many handsome modern residences, inhabited by genteel families, and the spa-

cious breadth of the high street carries with it a grand, and at the same time, light appearance. Maidstone consists of four main streets, intersecting each other at the market cross, there being several smaller branching out of the same. The cross on the top of the above building, which was an octagon, has been long taken down, though the name still remains. It has been since used for a fish-market, and was formerly called the corn cross, having been made use of for a corn-market till the upper court house was built about the year 1608, by an assessment on the town.

On account of the convenient situation of this place, for transacting the public business of the county, it has long been reputed the *county, or shire town.* Near the upper end of the high street, leading down to the bridge, in addition to the court hall above mentioned, is a more modern structure, being a handsome building, composed of brick and stone, built some years ago, at the joint expense of the corporation and justices of the western division of the county: the former use it to transact all their public business; and the latter, when the affairs of the county require their assembling, The street leading towards Coxheath, and the Weald of Kent, is called Stone street, a name that sufficiently proves the antiquity of the town, and its consequence in the time of the Romans. There are three principal conduits, supplied with excellent water, conveyed by pipes from a place called Rocky hill, in the West Borough, on the opposite side of the Medway, which is at the charge of the corporation: they are placed very conveniently for the service of the inhabitants; one at the upper end of the high street, near the market cross; a second lower down, being a high octagon stone building, with a clock and dial, having a turret on the summit, and what is called a *fish bell*, which is always rung when any fish are brought to market; the third is placed at the lower end of the town. At a small distance from the south side of this street, on an eminence, near the Medway, stands the church, the ancient archiepiscopal palace, and the remains of the college, each forming conspicuous objects to the neighbouring country westward.

Adjoining the last-mentioned court is the prison belonging to the corporation, formerly called the Brambles. This prison appears to have anciently appertained to the archbishop of Canter-

Drawn by Geo Shepherd

Engraved by J. Allen

THE GAOL, MAIDSTONE.

KENT.

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bury, and continued so till Archbishop Cranmer, in the reign of Henry VIII., exchanged the prison-house of this town with that monarch. Under Charles I., it remained with the king, as it appears, by letters patent in 1631, that he granted the office of keeper, and the custody of all prisoners, to John Collins, for his life, who, by will, gave this patent in 1644, with all the irons and implements, fees and appurtenances, to his son, of the same name.

The public gaol of the *western division* of the county was formerly placed most inconveniently, in the very centre of the town, to the great annoyance of the inhabitants, where it remained till 1736, when, on a petition being presented, an Act was obtained for erecting another structure, together with a bridewell in another part of the town.

This plan, after some delay, was accomplished, and a capacious stone building, with large outlets and conveniences for this purpose, erected near the outskirts of the town, in East lane, which has been still further strengthened and enlarged, at a great expense, the charge being defrayed by the population of the western division of the county.

THE MARKET, first granted to Archbishop Boniface, by Henry III., to be held weekly, at his manor, has been confirmed by the several charters, to this town; and is now held weekly, on a Thursday, for the sale of all kinds of provisions, corn, and hops, toll free; which, with the town and its neighbourhood, for miles round, is most plentifully supplied, at a very reasonable rate. The mayor is clerk of the market, and, when admitted into his office, sworn duly to execute that part of his duty. George II., by letters patent in 1751, granted to the Corporation a market, to be held the second Tuesday in every month, throughout the year, for the buying and selling all manner of sheep and other cattle; there is also another market for the sale of hops, yearly, at Michaelmas.

THE FAIRS of this town are held four times yearly, viz. Feb. 13, May 12, June 20, and October 27, for horses, bullocks, and other cattle, as well as for wares, haberdashery, and pedlary; but the last is by far the largest, being resorted to by the country people for many miles round. The principal part of these fairs is held on a piece of ground, on the banks of the Medway, called the Meadow, though the high street is also covered with merchandise.

There were two considerable manufactories of linen thread carried on in this town ; which trade was introduced here by the Walloons, in the reign of Elizabeth, when they fled from the persecution of the Duke d'Alva, and took refuge in England. The Walloon families resident here in 1634, were about fifty, but are now quite extinct, though some names still remain which derived their origin from them. The only remembrance of the Walloons now left in the town, is the term which the common people give to the flax spun for the thread men, which they call Dutch work.

A great distillery has been erected and carried on in this place, to a very large extent, from which is produced the well-known *Maidstone geneva,* the establishment being of such magnitude, that no less than 700 hogs have been nourished from the surplus of the grains arising from the distillation.

There is a department of the customs, and an office of excise in this town.

Besides the grammar-school, there are also several other seminaries.

The navigation of the river Medway is of the greatest advantage to Maidstone, as a considerable traffic is by that means carried on to Rochester, Chatham, and thence to London, while, from the several large corn-mills, abundance of meal and flour is shipped off for the use of those towns, the dock and navy there, as well as great quantities sent weekly to the metropolis. The fulling and paper mills are equal to any in the kingdom, while vast quantities of timber are conveyed hither from the Weald of Kent and its neighbourhood, by land carriage and water, and are forwarded hence, by the navigation of the Medway, to the dock at Chatham, and other distant parts. Independent of the above, there are several large hoys, of fifty tons burden, and upwards, which sail weekly to and from London, for the convenience of this town and the adjacent country. There was a family of good account, called, as well from its residence as birth here, by the surname of *Maidstone*, whose arms, as appears by a monument in Ulcombe church, were, *Sable, a chevron between three cups, covered, argent, crowned, or.*

Ralph de Maidestan, dean of Hereford, was consecrated bishop of that see in 1234. He was born here, and is celebrated

by Matthew Paris as a man of excellent learning, and holiness of life, having resigned his bishopric in 1239, and taken the habit of a Franciscan at Oxford, when he retired to the convent of that order at Gloucester, and died in 1245, having been buried there.

John de Maidestan was made dean of Lincoln in 1275.

Walter de Maidestan had the king's licence in the 4th of Edward II., to embattle his mansion in the town of *Maidestan*.

William de Maidestan, the king's valet, being sent to the court of Rome, died on his journey thither, in the above reign.

Walter de Maidestan was consecrated bishop of Worcester in 1313, at which time Robert de Maidestan was canon of the church of Chichester.

Another *Walter Maidestan* was made subdean of Lincoln in 1329.

John Maidston, gent. was principal agent, in 1644, to the earl of Manchester, general of the Parliamentary forces, and bore for his arms, as appears by his will, *two battle-axes in saltire*.

In addition to the above, *William Maidestan* was abbot of Faversham, and Walter, a monk of that abbey. *Thomas de Maidestan* officiated as canon of Leeds in 1397; and *Clement de Maydestone*, priest, was the transcriber of the *Directorium Sacerdotum*, as appears by his name at the end of that production.

In the heraldic visitation of the county of Kent, taken in 1619, is the pedigree of the Fisher's, of *Maidstone*, beginning with William Fisher, of this place, whose descendant and great grandson, Walter Fisher, was mayor of this town. They bore for their arms, *Argent on a chief, gules, a dolphin argent.*

Richard Lee, son of Richard, of Delee, near Rochester, sheriff of Kent in the reign of Edward IV., had a mansion in this town, where he resided, whose third son, Edward, was archbishop of York.

Among the remarkable occurrences which have happened at this place, we may record that, during the time of the great rebellion, in 1648, General Fairfax, with the whole of his forces, marched, by order of the Parliament, towards Maidstone, which contained at that time 1000 horse and foot of the royalists, commanded by Sir John Mayney; when the general, with a force of 10,000 men, assaulted Maidstone, which he began to

storm. As this had been expected, the streets and houses were lined by the royalists, who had been augmented to 2,000 men, when Fairfax met with such resolute opposition on every side, that he gained every street inch by inch, and the engagement lasted five hours, when the royalists being quite overcome by the numerous reserves continually advancing, were forced to retreat into the church, and were obliged to surrender upon the best terms they could obtain for ensuring their personal safety. Scarcely any action during the war was more bravely contested, so that Fairfax prevailed by his superior numbers only, over the gallant few. Lord Clarenden says it was a sharp encounter, very bravely fought with the general's whole strength; and the veteran soldiers confessed that they had never met with the like desperate service during the war.

On Friday, August 19, 1763, a most violent storm of wind and hail, accompanied by thunder and lightning, spread general desolation over this parish and the adjacent neighbourhood. It arose at sea, off the Sussex coast, and entering this county at Tunbridge Wells, passed quite across to Sheerness, being forty miles in length, and in breadth, from two to four miles: its direction was nearly from south-west by west to north-east by east.

The fury of this tempest was so great over about twenty-four parishes, most of which were extremely fertile, that nearly the whole growth of hops, with the fruit-orchards, were destroyed, and the farmers and labourers deprived of subsistence by the dreadful fatality. Many buildings and houses were blown down, and on one side of the High street, in the town of Maidstone, not only the glass, but the lead and frames of the windows were broken and driven in by the hail, which beat as loud against the shutters as the strongest blows of a thick club would have effected. At Barming, one piece of hail was taken up, in the form of an oyster, measuring nine inches in circumference; while others were discovered ten days after the storm. So general a desolation in this county had never been remembered or related in history; and indeed the calamity would have been almost insupportable had not the generosity of the opulent, and the public in general, relieved the sufferers in some measure from the ruin and misery resulting from this event.

The Town of Maidstone was anciently governed by a portreeve and twelve brethren, and so continued till Edward VI., by letters patent, newly incorporated the town by the style and title of the *Mayor, Jurats, and Commonalty of the town of Maidstone, in the county of Kent.*

These privileges were shortly after forfeited by the rebellion, commenced in this town under Sir Thomas Wyatt, and other principal gentlemen, of whom, Sir Henry and Thomas Isley, his brother, and Walter Mantle, esqs. were afterwards executed.

The arms of the town of Maidstone are, *Or on a fess, wavy azure between three torteauxes, on a chief gules a lion passant, guardant, or.*

King James I., by letters patent, dated July 8, in his 21st year, created Lady Elizabeth Finch, widow of Sir Moile Finch, bart., *viscountess Maidstone,* with limitation to her heirs male; and King Charles I., by letters patent, conferred upon her the title of countess Winchelsea, to her and her heirs male, earls of Winchelsea. She died in 1633, and was succeeded by Sir Thomas Finch, the second, but eldest surviving son, in her titles, being the first earl of Winchelsea, and viscount Maidstone; in whose descendants the title continued down to John, fifth earl of Winchelsea, who dying without issue in 1729, these honours descended to Daniel, second earl of Nottingham, son and heir of Sir Heneage Finch, who succeeded Sir Heneage, fourth son of Sir Moile Finch, bart., by Elizabeth countess Winchelsea.

Daniel, earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, was constituted lord lieutenant of this county, and afterwards successively employed in different great offices of trust, being much esteemed for his learning and eminent abilities. He died in 1730, having been twice married; first, to Essex, daughter and coheir of Robert Rich, earl of Warwick, by whom he had one daughter; secondly, to Anne, only daughter of Sir Christopher Hatton, by whom he had five sons and eight daughters; of whom, the eldest son, Daniel, succeeded him in the title of earl Winchelsea and Nottingham. He married, first, Frances, daughter of Basil Fielding, earl of Denbigh, by whom he had one daughter, Charlotte; and secondly, Mary, daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Palmer, bart. of Wingham, by whom he had four daughters, Heneage, Essex, Hatton, and Augusta; and dying

in 1769, aged eighty-one, without issue male, was succeeded in his honours by his nephew, George Finch, esq., only son of the Right Hon. William Finch, second and next brother to Daniel earl of Winchelsea; since which, the title descended to the Right Hon. the earl of Winchelsea, now possessor of Eastwell park.

He bears for his arms, quarterly, first and fourth, *Argent, a chevron between three griffins passant sable;* for Finch, second and third, *Gules, three lions rampant, or;* for Fitz-Herbert, for his crest, *on a wreath, a flying horse, argent, winged, and ducally gorged, or:* for supporters, *on the right, a flying horse, and on the left, a griffin, sable, ducally collared, or.*

It has been already mentioned that this town was AN ANCIENT BOROUGH BY PRESCRIPTION, which privilege has since been confirmed by the several charters granted to the same. The first account extant of the names of the burgesses returned is in the 6th of Edward VI.

Maidstone was part of the ancient possessions of the see of Canterbury, and so remained at the time of the Conquest, being entered in the record of Domesday under the general title of the possessions of that see.

The archbishops do not appear to have had a house of any note here till the reign of King John, in the 7th year of which prince, William de Cornhill is said to have given his seat in Maidstone to Archbishop Stephen Langton, for a residence, for him and his successors; soon after which, this manor, with its appurtenances, was valued at £83 16 11 per annum.

John Ufford, who came to the see of Canterbury in 1348, began to rebuild this palace, but he died soon afterwards, before he had received his pall, or was even consecrated. He appears to have pulled down the greatest part, if not the whole; in which situation the building remained during the few weeks his successor, Archbishop Thomas Bradwardene, enjoyed the primacy. Simon Islip then succeeded, in 1349, to the archbishopric, who sued the administrator of Archbishop Ufford for dilapidations, and recovered upwards of £1100; upon which, the archbishop pulled down the ruined palace at Wrotham, in this neighbourhood, and conveyed the materials hither, finishing the palace at Maidstone with the same. Archbishop Courtney, who succeeded to the see in 1381, in the 5th of Richard II.,

Engraved by P. Wheeler

made many improvements in this structure, where he died in 1396, and was interred at Canterbury, though a cenotaph still remains in the great chancel of the church at Maidstone. From the above period, the palace, on account of its pleasant and convenient situation, became the residence of the succeeding primates; and in the time of Archbishop Chichele, Henry VI. honoured the edifice with a visit, as appears by his writs, bearing date March 21. In the 31st year of the above reign, Archbishop John Stafford died at this palace, to which he had resorted for the benefit of the air. Archbishop Morton repaired the building; after which the manor and palace underwent no material alteration till Archbishop Cranmer exchanged it with Henry VIII., when it continued with the crown till the reign of Edward VI., who, in his 4th year, granted this manor to Sir Thomas Wyatt. On his attainder, the palace, rectory, and other premises, became confiscated to the crown, when Queen Elizabeth granted them to Sir John Astley, son of John Astley, master of the queen's jewels, who died in 1639; and as he left no issue, bequeathed this mansion to his kinsman, Sir Jacob Astley, who, for his loyalty and eminent services to Charles I., was, in the 20th year of that reign, created baron Astley of Reading. He died at the palace of Maidstone in 1651, leaving one son, Isaac, who succeeded him in title and estate; and a daughter, Elizabeth, who married her kinsman, Sir Edward Astley, of Melton.

Isaac lord Astley died in 1662, leaving two sons, Jacob, who succeeded him, and Francis, who died without issue. Jacob lord Astley dying in 1688, and leaving no issue, the barony became extinct, when this mansion devolved, among his other estates, to Sir Jacob Astley, bart. of Melton Constable, in Norfolk. He continued owner of this estate till the 6th of George I., A. D. 1720, when he alienated the property, with other estates in this neighbourhood, to Sir Robert Marsham, bart., lord Romney.

The manor of Maidstone, however, seems to have continued in the hands of the crown till Charles I. granted it, in fee, to the trustees of the Lady Elizabeth Finch, viscountess Maidstone, to be held in socage. From her it passed to her direct descendant, Heneage, fourth earl of Winchelsea, who, in 1720, alienated his interest to Sir Robert Marsham, bart., lord Romney,

whose grandson, Charles lord Romney, afterwards possessed this property.

The manor extends over the whole hundred, and is styled the hundred and manor of Maidstone. At the court-leet and court-baron, held annually, there are chosen, yearly, a constable for the hundred, and five borsholders, viz. one for each of the parishes or boroughs of Barming, Boxley, Detling, Linton, with the borough of Brockhurst, and one for the parishes of East Farleigh and Loose jointly.

The Mote was an ancient seat in this parish, situated about a mile eastward from the town of Maidstone, and encircled with a pleasant park. It was formerly castellated, and, in the reign of Henry III., part of the possessions of the noted family of the Leyborne's. In the 51st year of that reign, Roger de Leyborne obtained the grant of a market, to be held weekly at this place, on a Tuesday; and an annual fair, for three days, at the feast of St. Cross.

After the Leyborne's were extinct, it became the property of John de Shofford, from whom it acquired the name of the manor of Shofford, otherwise Le Mote. Ralph de Ditton afterwards possessed it, and, in the 20th of King Edward III., Bartholomew de Burghersh held it as one quarter of a knight's fee, which Ralph de Ditton had before held in Shofford of the archbishop. He was a man of great eminence, being lord warden of the Cinque Ports, and governor of Dover castle. He died possessed of the property in the 38th year of that reign, leaving Bartholomew, his eldest son, his heir, who was so much esteemed by Edward III., that, on the institution of the order of the Garter, he selected him as one of the knight's companions. He resided here after his father's death, in the 29th year of that reign, and died in the 43d year of the same; some years after which, the Mote passed into the possession of the Widvill's, or Woodvill's, who removed from Grafton, in Northamptonshire, where they had been long settled, and resided here. John de Wydevill seems to have possessed this seat in the reign of Richard II., who died possessed of the same. His son, Richard, succeeded him in those offices, and was afterwards made seneschal of Normandy, and constable of the Tower of London, by Henry VI.; but having, without licence, married Jaquet de Luxembourg, daughter of Peter earl of St. Paul, and widow of John duke of

Bedford, he was fined £1000 for that transgression, and livery of her dower. Notwithstanding which, the king in his 26th year, in recompense for his services in the French wars, created him a baron, by the title of Lord Rivers Grafton, and De la Mote, in consequence of which, he assumed in an escutcheon of pretence, upon his own coat of arms, *Argent, a fess and canton, gules,* the ancient coat ascribed commonly to Baldwin Rivers, or De Ripario, earl of Devonshire, in the reign of King Stephen, viz. *Gules, a griffin segreant, or.*

Richard lord Rivers continued firm to the cause of Henry VI. during the remainder of his reign, but after King Edward had obtained the crown, and espoused Elizabeth, his eldest daughter, widow of Sir John Grey, of Groby, and made her his queen, he forgot all his former obligations to the house of Lancaster, and had great honours and trusts conferred upon him by the king, who in his 6th year created him Earl Rivers, Lord Treasurer and High Constable of England. Two years after, being at his seat at Grafton, in Northampton, he was there surprised by the people, who had tumultuously assembled in favor of King Henry, and being seized, was carried to Northampton, and beheaded without any form of law. Among other representations of the nobility of the time, was that of this earl, painted on a window in Ashford church, kneeling on a cushion, with his surcoat of arms, viz. of four coats, first and fourth, *quarterly,* first and fourth, Rivers, second and third, *a spread eagle,* second and third, *vaire, argent and azure.* Behind him was the figure of his wife, the duchess of Bedford, kneeling on a cushion, having on her robe, *Gules, a lion rampant, argent,* and before him was the figure of his son, Lord Scales, also kneeling, bearing on his surcoat *six escalops.*

This Anthony, his eldest son, succeeded him in titles and estates, having during his father's lifetime, through the interest of the king, married Elizabeth, sole daughter and heir of Thomas lord Scales, of Nucals, on which account he was declared Lord Scales. In the 5th of Edward IV. he was elected knight of the Garter, after which he possessed many honourable and lucrative posts, being constituted governor of Calais, the tower of Ryesbank, and the castle of Guisnes; also captain general of the king's forces, both by sea and land; and, in the 13th of the same reign, upon the creation of Prince Edward to be prince of

Wales and earl of Chester, he was appointed his governor, and, at the same time, chief butler of England. However, on the death of King Edward, in 1483, while attending the young king out of Wales, towards London, he was entrapped by the dukes of Gloucester and Buckingham at Northampton, and sent prisoner to the castle of Sheriff Hutton; whence they soon afterwards hurried him away to Pontefract, where he was beheaded as a traitor, not being suffered to address the people in his own vindication. Leaving no legitimate issue, Richard, his brother, succeeded him in honours and estates; the latter of which, however, King Richard III. did not suffer him to enjoy, but made a grant of this, among other estates, to Robert Brakenbury, esq., on whom he had conferred the office of constable of the Tower, in recompense for his services. In this state the Mote remained till the accession of Henry VII., when Richard earl Rivers was put in possession of the same. The earl died possessed of the property in the 7th year of that reign, without issue, having by will appointed Lord Thomas Gray, Marquis Dorset, his nephew, to succeed him. He soon after alienated this estate to Sir Henry Wyatt, of Allington castle; on whose attainder the Mote became confiscated to the crown, when it was, the following year, granted, by Queen Mary, to Hugh Warham, of Southampton, most probably for a term of years only, as, twelve months after, Queen Elizabeth appears to have again held the estate, who, in her 31st year, granted it to John Nicholas and John Dixon. Soon after, it devolved to the possession of Sir William Rither, of London, who was third son of Edward Rither, of Low Layton, in Essex, and served the office of lord mayor in 1600. He repaired this seat, and bequeathed it to his daughter and coheir, the Lady Susan, then wife of Sir Thomas Cæsar, one of the barons of the Exchequer. He was second son of Adelmane, an Italian, descended from the ancient family of the Delmarii, and was physician to Queens Mary and Elizabeth, the latter of whom, for his great learning, gave him the name of Cæsar. He left three sons, Sir Julius Cæsar, master of the Rolls; Sir Thomas, above mentioned; and Henry, dean of Ely. The Cæsar's bore for their arms, *Argent, three roses, gules on a chief, gules, three roses argent.*

After the death of Sir Thomas Cæsar, his widow again carried this estate in marriage to Mr. Thomas Philipott, second

KENT

Geo Virtue, 26 Ivy Lane

son of Sir John Philipott, of Compton Wascelin, in Hants., whom she also survived, and afterwards joining with her eldest son by her first husband, Thomas Cæsar, esq., sold it, in the beginning of the reign of Charles I., to Sir Humphrey Tufton, who, in 1641, was created a baronet, being the second son of Sir John Tufton, bart. of Hothfield, and next brother to Nicholas first earl of Thanet. He bore for his arms, *Sable, an eagle, displayed ermine within a bordure, argent*, with due difference. He resided here, and died in 1659, being succeeded by Sir John Tufton, bart., his eldest surviving son, who resided at the Mote, and although twice married, left no issue, and dying in 1685, was buried in Maidstone church. By will he gave this seat and estate to his niece, Tufton Wray, one of the daughters of Sir William Wray, bart. of Ashby, in Lincolnshire, who alienated it to Sir John Marsham, of Whorne's place, in Cookstone, who having removed to the Mote, died here in 1692. His son and heir, Sir John Marsham, bart., dying without issue a few years after his father, the title, with this seat, devolved to his uncle, Sir Robert Marsham, of Bushey hall, in Herts., who removing his residence into Kent, died possessed of the Mote in 1703.

His only son, Sir Robert Marsham, bart., was, in 1716, created a peer, by the title of lord Romney; he resided at the Mote, and died in 1724, leaving by his wife, daughter and coheir of Sir Cloudesly Shovel, an only son and heir, Robert; and two daughters, Elizabeth, married, in 1741, to Sir Jacob Bouverie, afterwards viscount Folkstone; and Harriet, who died unmarried. Robert, the son, succeeded his father as lord Romney, who married the daughter and sole heir of Charles Pym, esq., by whom he had ten children, only six having survived him, viz. two sons, the Hon. Charles Marsham, afterwards lord Romney; and Jacob, in holy orders. Robert lord Romney died at the Mote in 1793, and was succeeded by his only surviving son, the Hon. Charles Marsham, member for this county in three successive Parliaments, who, in 1776, married Lady Frances Wyndham, sister of the earl of Egremont, by whom he had one son, Charles, and three daughters, Frances, Harriet, and Amelia Charlotte. Lord Romney pulled down the ancient seat of the Mote, and rebuilt it in a much more eligible situation in the park, which is richly interspersed with spreading

oaks of very large dimensions. He resided there, and was lord lieutenant of the county; having borne for his arms, *Argent, a lion passant in bend gules between two bendlets, azure;* for crest, *on a wreath, a lion's head, erased gules;* supporters, *two lions, azure, semee of cross, cross croslets, gorged, with naval crowns, or.*

At a small distance southward from the Mote park lies the MANOR OF GOULDS, and an estate called SHEPWAY COURT, both of which formerly belonged to a family named Vinter, that resided at Vinter's, in the adjoining parish of Boxley. Roger Vinter was one of the conservators of the Peace for this county in the 18th of Edward III., and then possessed these estates; and upon his founding the chantry in Maidstone church, since called *Gould's chantry*, in the above reign, he endowed it with the revenues arising thence, for the support of the priest performing divine offices there.

On the suppression of this chantry, in the reign of Henry VIII., the manor of Goulds was granted to John Deuntley, to hold *in capite;* after which it passed into the name of Blayne, John Blayne dying possessed of it in the 5th of King Edward VI. His descendant, Henry Blayne, in the 20th of Elizabeth, alienated the manor of Goulds, with its appurtenances in Maidstone and Shefford, to Thomas Hendsley otherwise Hendlebery, and Anne, his wife. Thomas Hendsley was at that time likewise possessed of Shepye court, in Maidstone, which had been granted by Henry VIII., at the suppression of the chantry, to Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington, who, in the 32d year of the same reign, had again exchanged it with that king.

One of Thomas Hendley's descendants passed away both these estates to an Andrews; from which name they were sold to Sir Humphrey Tufton, bart., afterwards of the Mote; since which, they have passed in like manner as that seat to the Right Hon. Charles Lord Romney, who possessed both Goulds and Shepye court.

BIGONS, otherwise DIGONS, was once a seat of some note in this parish, and the residence of a family of the name of Mapelysden, one of which line, Edward Mapelysden, of Digons, is mentioned in a deed of the 25th of King Edward III.; and in his descendants it continued down to George Maplesden. In the Visitation of Kent, A.D. 1619, is a pedigree of this family,

which, about this time, separated into two branches, one settled at Rochester, while the other, being the younger, continued at Maidstone. A descendant of one of those branches remained at Shorne, near Rochester, possessed of a good fortune; which family bore for its arms, *Sable, a cross formee, fitchee, argent.* George Maplesden having engaged in Sir Thomas Wyatt's rebellion, forfeited this seat to the crown; when it was soon after granted to Nicholas Barham, esq., afterwards sergeant at law, descended from a branch of those of Berham court, in Teston. His son and heir, Arthur Barham, passed it by sale to Henry Haule, descended from Thomas de Aula or Haule, of Wye. He resided here, and married Jane, the second daughter of Richard Dering, esq. of Pluckley, by whom he had two sons, Henry and George, when the former possessed this seat on the death of his father, and soon after alienated it to Sir Francis Barnham, of Hollingbourne, who greatly improved the property. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sampson Lennard, esq., by whom he had several children; when Dacre, the eldest son, dying unmarried, Robert, his second, became his heir, and alienated this house, soon after the death of Charles I., to Walter Franklyn, who sold it to Mr. Beale, of London, as the latter afterwards did to Griffith Hatley, M.D., fifth son of John Hatley, citizen of London, descended of a good family at Goldington, in Bedfordshire.

He died possessed of this mansion in 1710, since which it has continued in the same name and family; being afterwards the property of James Hatley, esq. of Ipswich, in Suffolk.

JORDAN'S HALL was once a seat of some note in this town, situated in Stone street, and anciently afforded both name and residence to a family so called. From the Jordan's it passed by sale to one of the family of the Roper's, of St. Dunstan's, near Canterbury; in which name it continued till John Roper alienated it, about the 36th of Henry VI., to Edward and William Brauch, of Bersted. They soon after parted with their interest therein to one Atwood, from which name it was sold to the Peirce's; and thence again to the Cook's, who conveyed it to one Crooke; and after having remained a short time in that line, it was passed by sale to one Potkin, descended from those at Sevenoak. From the latter family it was, by a female coheir, carried in marriage to one Virgo, who, about the latter end of

the reign of Elizabeth, sold it to Laurence Washington, esq., a justice of the peace, and register of the court of Chancery, descended from the Washington's anciently of Washington, in Durham. He alienated it to the Godwin's; whence it passed, by purchase, and became the inheritance of one Crispe, who, in the reign of Charles I., sold it to Mr. Smith; and one of the latter name, Jane Smith, in 1644, conveyed this mansion to Margaret Wood. It has now lost its name, being divided into small tenements of little account, neither the site or proprietors being at present known.

SHALES COURT is a manor in the southern part of this parish, anciently the inheritance of the noted family of the Fremingham's, one of which, John de Fremingham, died possessed of it in the reign of Edward III. His descendant, John, son of Sir Ralph de Fremingham, of Loose, died in the 12th of Henry IV., leaving no issue, when his feoffees assigned it over, according to the directions of his will, to John, son of Reginald de Pimpe, who died possessed of Shales manor, in the reign of Henry V. In his descendants it continued down to Reginald de Pimpe, who died in the reign of Henry VIII., when his heirs alienated it to Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington castle, who exchanged the manor and court of Shales with Henry VIII. It was then granted by Edward VI. to Sir Walter Hendley, sergeant at law, who died in the 6th year of that reign, leaving three daughters his coheirs; when, on the division made between them of their inheritance, the manor of Shales court seems to have been allotted to Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, widow of William Waller, esq. of Groombridge, but then wife of George Fane, who died possessed of it in the 9th of Queen Elizabeth, and was interred at Brenchley, in this county.

On her demise, this manor descended to her son, by her first husband, Sir Walter Waller, who, in the 17th year of the same reign, alienated it to Walter Hendley, of Coursehourne, in Cranbrooke, and Elizabeth, his wife; in whose descendants it continued till the reign of Charles II., when it was in the possession of Sir Thomas Hendley, of Coursehourne. Soon after the above period, it was alienated to Sir John Banks, bart. of Aylesford, who died in 1699, leaving two daughters his coheirs; one of whom married Heneage Finch, second son of the earl of Nottingham, who in her right, on the partition of her father's

estates, became entitled to the same. In 1703, he was created baron of Guernsey, and in 1714, earl of Aylesford; his great grandson, Heneage Finch, earl of Aylesford, having afterwards been owner of this manor.

CHILLINGTON is a manor in this parish, the mansion of which was situated near St. Faith's green, in this town. It was anciently part of the possessions of the eminent family of the Cobham's, one of whom, John de Cobham, procured a charter of *free warren* for this manor in the reign of Edward III. Soon after, it passed to the Maplesden's, of Digons, in this town, in which name it remained till George Maplesden forfeited the property for treason to the crown; when it was granted to Sir Walter Hendley, who alienated his interest therein to Nicholas Barham, esq. His son and heir passed it away by sale to Henry Haule, of Digons, above mentioned, whose youngest grandson, George, died in 1650, without issue, leaving his sister, Elizabeth, who had espoused Sir Thomas Taylor, bart., his heir.

They joined in the sale of this estate of Chillington, for it had lost the reputation of a manor, to Sir John Beale, bart. of Farningham, who left two daughters his coheirs; when, on a partition of their inheritance, this estate fell to the share of Elizabeth, the youngest sister, married to William Emerton, esq. of Chipsted. They then joined in the sale of the same to Robert Southgate, fruiterer, whose son, of the same name, resided there, and afterwards, about the year 1746, passed it by sale to David Fuller, of Maidstone, attorney at law, who dying without issue, devised it by will to his widow. At her decease, in 1778, she bequeathed the estate to her relation, William Stacy, esq. of Canterbury, who became proprietor of this mansion, which, in extent and other respects, retains many marks of its ancient state.

THE MANOR OF EAST LANE, so called from its situation in this town, was formerly part of the possessions of the priory of Leeds, and so continued till the dissolution, under Henry VIII., when the priory being surrendered to the king, it was by him settled on his newly erected dean and chapter of Rochester, where it has remained.

A court-baron is held for this manor, the jurisdiction of which extends over twenty-five tenements in East lane and Middle row, in Maidstone, which pay quit-rents to the same.

The Park House was a pleasant seat, situated near the east side of the road to Rochester, about half a mile from the town of Maidstone. This estate seems to have been part of the possessions of the see of Canterbury, having been purchased of Archbishop Cranmer by Henry VIII., at which time it was in the occupation of Sir Anthony Knevet; and afterwards, by lease from the king, held by William Smith, under the description of the land and pasture, called *Le Park,* in this parish. At what period it passed from the crown we have not found, but under Charles II. it was in the possession of Sir Thomas Taylor, bart. who resided there, and was descended from those of that name of Willsborough, whose ancestor was John Taylor, of the Homestall, in Shadoxhurst, such having been their original residence. They bore for their arms, *Argent, on a chief sable, two boars' heads, couped of the field.* In 1664 he was created a baronet, and died the following year, leaving one son, Sir Thomas Taylor, bart., who succeeded his father in this estate, and resided at Park house, having married Alicia, sister, and at length heir of Sir Thomas Colepeper, bart. of Aylesford, when he died without issue. His heirs sold it, about the year 1735, to James Calder, esq., whose ancestor, James Calder, of Muertown, in Scotland, was created a baronet of that kingdom in 1686. He resided here, and on the death of his father, assumed the title of baronet, and died in 1774, having married, first, Alice, youngest daughter of Admiral Hughes, by whom he left one son, Henry, and a daughter, Alithea: he married, secondly, Catherine, daughter of Wentworth Odiarne, esq., by whom he had no issue; and Sir Henry, his son, rebuilt this seat at no great distance, though within Boxley parish. He died in 1792, leaving, by his second wife, an infant son, who succeeded to this inheritance.

Great Buckland manor is situated on the western side of the river Medway, opposite the town of Maidstone, on the summit of the hill, the proper name being *Bocland,* no doubt derived from the tenure whereby the property is held. In the time of the Saxons such land was hereditary, and passed by deed, being held by the Thanes or nobles, having the addition of *Great* to distinguish it from other parts of this estate now in the possession of different owners; all which were anciently portions of the demesnes of a family which hence derived its name.

Buckland was originally granted by Hubert Walter, archbishop of Canterbury, in the reign of King John, to Alan de Bocland, by the description of one yoke and ten acres of land, with its appurtenances, in Maidstone, to hold in frank fee, and not in gavelkind, as had previously been the case. His grandson, Walter de Bocland, held this estate in the 55th of Henry III., A.D. 1270. A *nuper obiit* was brought, in the above year, before the justices itinerant, by Alan de Bocland, against his elder brother, Walter, above mentioned, for a moiety of this estate, the tenure of the same having been changed by the archbishop without the consent of the chapter of Canterbury. That plea, however, was overruled, and judgment passed for the defendant.

His descendant, John de Bocland, died possessed of the property in the 3d of Edward III., who was succeeded by his son, Sir John dé Bocland, a person of some note in the same reign. Under Henry IV., Buckland had become part of the possessions of the college of St. Mary and All Saints, of Maidstone, where it continued till the dissolution of this house, in the 1st of Edward VI., when it passed to the crown; upon which, the above prince, in his 3d year, granted the site of the college to Sir George Brooke, lord Cobham, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service.

His grandson, Henry lord Cobham, being attainted for treason in the 1st of James I., forfeited all his estates to the crown, but as Buckland was settled in jointure upon the Lady Frances, wife of Lord Cobham, it was, upon his death, granted to her, and the reversion to Sir Robert Cecil, earl of Salisbury, son of the famous William lord Burleigh, by his second wife, he having espoused Elizabeth, sister of the above-mentioned unfortunate Lord Cobham.

Robert earl of Salisbury died in 1612, and was succeeded in titles and estate by William, his only son and heir, who, in 1618, alienated this property to several persons. That portion since called Great Buckland, with the manor, were sold to William Horsepoole, esq., descended from John Horsepoole, of Leicestershire; and he afterwards passed it away by sale to Thomas English, esq. of Sussex, who resided here. His son, Thomas, possessed Great Buckland in the reign of Charles II., about the latter end of which he alienated it to Sir John Banks,

bart. of Aylesford, who died in 1699, leaving two daughters his coheirs, viz. Elizabeth, married to Heneage Finch, second son of the earl of Nottingham; and Mary, to John Savil, esq. of Methley, in Yorkshire.

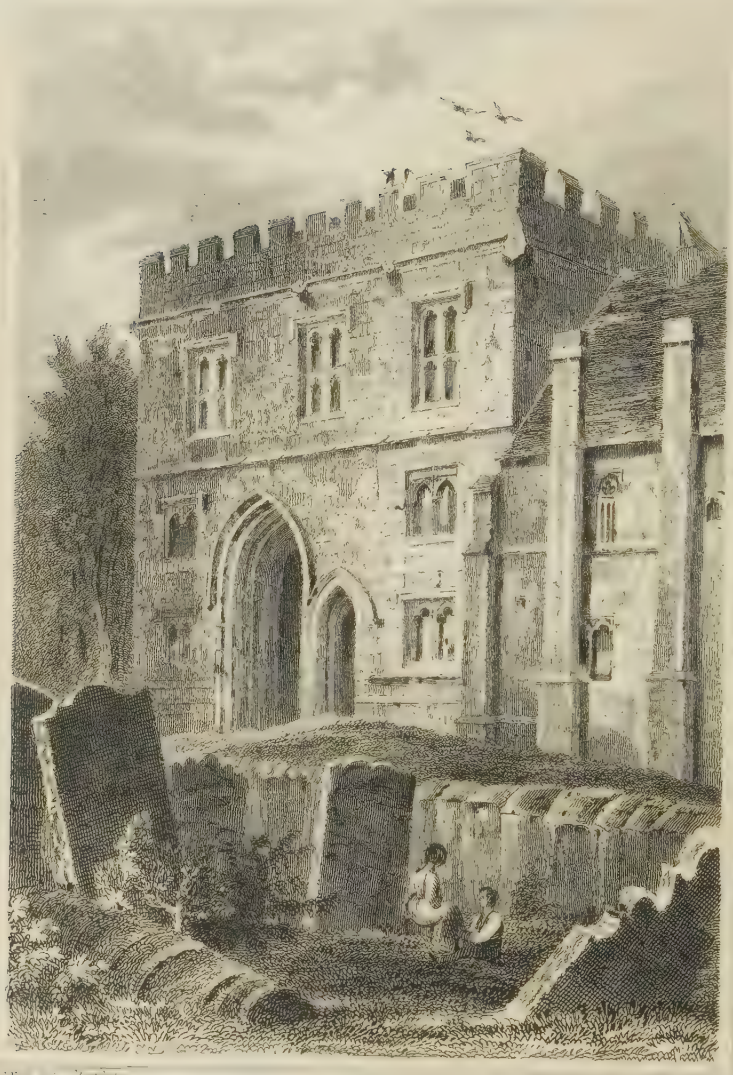
On the division of the inheritance, this estate was allotted to Elizabeth, married to Heneage Finch, afterwards earl of Aylesford, whose great grandson subsequently possessed the same.

ANOTHER PART OF BUCKLAND, since known by the name of LITTLE BUCKLAND, seems, about the latter end of the reign of James I., to have been in the possession of Viscountess Maidstone; in whose descendants it continued till Heneage Finch, in 1720, alienated it to Sir Robert Marsham, bart., lord Romney, whose grandson, Charles lord Romney, succeeded to the possession of this property.

There is still another part of Buckland, known also by the name of LITTLE BUCKLAND, which, in the reign of Charles II, had become the property of John Fletcher, gent., who sold it to Christopher Vane, lord Barnard. He died in 1723, leaving two sons, Gilbert, who succeeded him in title and estates in the north of England; and William, who possessed his father's seat of Fairlawn, and was, in 1720, created viscount Vane of the kingdom of Ireland. He died at the seat above mentioned in 1734, leaving an only son, William viscount Vane, who, at his death in 1789, devised this, among his other estates, to David Papillon, esq. of Acrise.

At the western extremity of the parish, and at no great distance from East Farleigh bridge, lies an estate commonly called *Halfway Oke*, formerly accounted a manor, and known by the appellation of Half Yoke, anciently part of the possessions of the eminent family of the Fremingham's, and passed thence, for want of heirs male, to the Pimpe's; and again from that name, to the Isley's, of Sundridge.

Sir Henry Isley possessed this manor in the reign of Edward VI., and procured the disgavelment of his lands; but having been concerned in Sir Thomas Wyatt's insurrection, his lands became forfeited to the crown. In the reign of Charles I., Andrew Videon, clerk of the papers of the King's Bench, was possessed of Half Yoke, and resided there, who was descended from a family of good repute and antiquity in this county, having been one among many who suffered for his loyalty to



Engraved by H Adlard

GATEWAY,

MAIDSTONE

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King Charles I. during the troubles, which he lived to survive. Sir Edward Walker, knight of the Garter, granted to him by patent, in 1664, the following coat of arms, viz. *Ermine on a bend vert, three roses, argent, barbed, and seeded, or.* After that name was extinct, this estate became of little account, and was no longer reputed a manor; when it appears to have been alienated to different persons, upon which, one portion passed to the name of French, from which it was sold to Mr. Fowle, of Fant; and another part became the property of the Harris's, of East Farleigh; the last of which line, Thomas Harris, gent., afterwards of East Barming, died unmarried in 1769, who by will gave his portion of the estate to Mrs. Mary Dorman.

The hamlet of Laddington, anciently called *Ludingford,* from the ford over the river, is esteemed to be within the parish of Maidstone, and lies near Style bridge, on the high road to Marden and Staplehurst. The manor was formerly in the possession of owners of the name of Pigott, with whom it remained till Mrs. Mary Pigott, marrying William Forster, D.D., entitled him jointly to her interest therein, which they both continued to hold.

Queen Elizabeth, in her 5th year, granted to — Parker all that ruinated house, called the *Old Place,* in Maidstone, with its appurtenances.

Archbishop Boniface, about the year 1260, under Henry III., built a college or hospital, for poor travellers, in the West borough, on the bank of the river Medway, opposite the town. It was dedicated to Sts. Peter and Paul, and called the hospital of the New Work of Presteshelle, in Meydestune, and in process of time, the Newerk.

Archbishop Walter Reynolds, about the year 1314, appropriated to this hospital the churches of Sutton, by Dover, Lillington or Linton, and East Farleigh, in this county.

In the 19th of Richard II., A.D. 1395, Archbishop William de Courtney, intending to make the parish-church of St. Mary of Maidstone collegiate, obtained the king's license, the same year, to erect that church into a college, and establish it as such for ever; to consist of one master or keeper, and as many fellow chaplains and other ministers therein, with license to the archbishop to assign to them the advowson and patronage of this

parish-church, and the chapels annexed thereto, to hold in pure and perpetual alms, as part of their maintenance, for ever.

To the above appropriations Adam Mottrum, archdeacon of Canterbury, gave his assent, and the year following, the king granted to them, by letters patent, the advowson of the church of Crundale, together with the mansion of Tremworth and Fannes; and Henry IV., in his 1st year, confirmed the last grant of Richard II., of the above advowson and manors.

Archbishop Courteney erected the college and buildings for the habitation of the master and other members, as well as for other uses, on the bank of the river, adjoining the south side of the cemetery of his church, and died the year after; and, as he had obtained the king's license for the founding his college, it is most probable it was began some time previous, for it appears that the structure was finished during his lifetime.

The patronage of this college and church continued part of the possessions of the archbishopric of Canterbury till the Primate Cranmer, in the 9th of Henry VIII., exchanged the advowson and patronage of the college and church of our Lady of Maidstone, and the advowson, donation, &c. of the chantry founded in Maidstone by Archbishop Arundel, with the king, for other premises therein mentioned.

The college of All Saints was dissolved by the general Act of suppression in the 1st of Edward VI., A.D. 1546, and surrendered into the king's hands, with all its lands and possessions.

The first master of this college was John Wotton, rector of Staplehurst, and canon of Chichester, who dying in 1417, was buried in this church, one of whose successors, William Grocyn, was admitted master in 1506. He was a very learned man, educated in Wickham's colleges, and travelled into Italy, where he acquired a great proficiency in the Latin and Greek languages, which he taught at Oxford, in a method unattempted before. He was at the same period tutor and friend of Erasmus, and died in 1522, aged eighty, greatly esteemed for his profound erudition; when he was buried in the great chancel, called the high choir of this church.

John Lease, LL.D., the last master, surrendered this college to Edward VI., A.D. 1546, at which time it was valued at

£212 5 3½, being the entire revenue, and £159 7 10 clear annual income.

Edward VI., by letters patent, granted this college, with its lands and tenements, to Sir George Brooke, lord Cobham, whose grandson, Henry lord Cobham, forfeited the same, for high treason, in the 1st of James I.

Under Charles I., Sir Edward Henden, one of the barons of the Exchequer, was possessed of it; after which, it passed into the family of the Marsham's, being part of the estates of Charles Marsham, lord Romney. This college, on its foundation, consisted of an extensive pile of stone buildings, most of which, with the great gate, are yet standing on the south side of the church, and occupied by a person concerned in the hop trade, some of the apartments being used as an oasthouse; there are also many other vestiges of ancient religious buildings in this town and its immediate vicinity.

The county jail, which stands pre-eminently conspicuous in this populous place, is a heavy and extensive fabric, commenced in 1811, and completed in 1818. It is intended as a prison for the county at large, and likewise made to supersede the present jail and house of correction of Maidstone. The ground whereon it is built occupies between thirteen and fourteen acres, the structure being sufficiently extensive to contain 450 prisoners. The building is composed of brick, faced with ragstone, and the plan of the whole very judiciously arranged: every class of prisoners has a distinct yard for taking the air, and each prisoner has a separate sleeping cell. The expense incurred by this erection was, we understand, about £180,000, which was extremely burdensome to many, who were compelled to contribute to such a vast county establishment.

In the vicinity of the new jail are the *barracks*, with the *cavalry depot*, where all those troops intended for the East India service, are trained.

The principal part of the town of Maidstone has been greatly improved since 1791, at which time an Act passed for lighting and paving the principal streets. There are two charity schools, as well as a grammar seminary.

The town of Maidstone sends two members to Parliament.

According to the last census of the population, taken in 1821, the borough of Maidstone contained 2131 dwellings;

the numbers of inhabitants being as follow : males 6083, females 6425, making a total of 12508 souls.

The fraternity of Corpus Christi, in Maidstone, was founded by several inhabitants of the town. The house used by the brethren stood at the lower end of Earl street, at a small distance from the river; the chapel or refectory, and three sides of the cloister, being still standing.

At the corner of East lane there was anciently a house, having Gothic arches, and several rooms vaulted with stone, which, in old deeds, was named the priory.

Maidstone is within the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton, and *exempt* from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon. The church stands in the western part of the town, on the bank of the river Medway. It was formerly dedicated to the Virgin, but when Archbishop Courteney had rebuilt the chapel, and obtained a license to render it collegiate, he dedicated it anew to All Saints.

The stalls for the master and fellows of the college still remain in the chancel, where the arms of Archbishop Courteney appear in several places, but in no other part; whence it appears probable the latter was a portion of the old church of St. Mary, and not rebuilt by the archbishop. The church is a large handsome building, consisting of a nave, great chancel, and two side aisles, the roof being lofty, and covered throughout with lead. At the west end is a handsome tower, whereon was once a spire, covered with lead, nearly eighty feet in height, burnt down by lightning in 1730. In 1700 the body of the church was regularly paved, and on either side a commodious gallery erected, one constructed at the charge of Sir Robert Marsham, bart., afterwards lord Romney.

There were anciently in this church numbers of inscriptions on brass plates, now, for the most part, missing. In the middle of the great chancel was a tombstone, raised a little above the pavement, with the portraiture of a bishop, habited in his mitre and robes, having an inscription round the same, on brass, now torn away; it is supposed to have been the cenotaph of Archbishop Courteney, the founder. The primate in question was son of Hugh Courteney, earl of Devonshire, by Margaret, daughter of Humphrey Bohun, earl of Essex and Hereford; and accordingly the arms of Courteney and Bohun are impaled on several places in this chancel.

The archbishop died at his palace at Maidstone in 1396, who, at the commencement of his will, directed that his body should be interred in the cathedral church of Exeter, where he had formerly been a prebend; but having changed his mind in this respect, conceiving that his remains were unworthy of burial in his metropolitical, or any other cathedral or collegiate church, he ordered that he should be interred in the churchyard of his collegiate church, at Maidstone, in the place designed for John Boteler, his esquire. However, it appears by the ledger book of Christ church, Canterbury, that King Richard II., happening to be then at Canterbury, commanded his body to be there entombed, where he lies, under a monument of alabaster, at the feet of Edward the Black Prince; such being the opinion of Somner, Godwin, M. Parker, and Camden, whereas Weever conceives that he was buried in the chancel of Maidstone church.

THERE WAS ANOTHER CHURCH, or rather a FREE CHAPEL, dedicated to St. Faith, situated in the northernmost part of the town, having been, most probably, erected for the use of those inhabitants of this parish who lived at too great a distance to frequent the other place of worship.

ADJOINING MAIDSTONE, northeastward, lies the parish of BOXLEY, written in Domesday *Boseleu*, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, *Boxele* and *Boxle*, a parish noted as well for the assembly of the whole county held at Penenden heath in the reign of the Conqueror, as for the abbey not long afterwards founded on this spot.

The village of *Boxley* is situated at the foot of the chalk hills, above which the parish extends among the coppice woods, over a barren and dreary country, covered by flints, to Dun street, at its northern boundaries; while southward, it stretches to the rivulet in the valley, at a small distance from the town of Maidstone. The soil, from its extent, is of course varied, being to the northward chalky; in the centre, and towards the west, a deep sand; and south-east, a fertile loamy earth, bounding upon the rock; the whole presenting a site much more healthy than pleasant, in consequence of its chalk, sand, and bleak exposure. The village is watered by a clear spring that rises just below the church, and directs its course through the street; which current, as well as another also rising at the foot of the

chalk hill, just above Boxley abbey, are both very picturesque to the view, but the water hard and unfit for culinary uses, especially that of the latter, which, in two months, will petrify wood, when the incrustation resembles brown unpolished marble. These currents join just below the abbey, and flow together into the Medway, almost opposite to Allington castle. The village lies on a descent from the hills, and contains several genteel houses. At the upper or northern part is Boxley house, the seat of Lord Romney, which was inhabited by his three sisters and Mr. Coker; lower down is a dwelling, for many years the property and residence of the family of Charlton, which bore for its arms, *Or, a lion rampant, gules,* the last of that name, John Charlton, having died in 1770, unmarried. It then passed by his will, together with his other estates, to his eldest nephew, the Rev. George Burville, which line bore for its arms, *Argent, a chevron between three oak leaves erect, vert.*

Mr. Burville married Juliana, daughter of William Bowyer, esq. of Denham, in Buckinghamshire, by whom he had a son, John, and a daughter, Frances, married to the Rev. Philip Rashleigh, who afterwards possessed this house, and resided here. Lower down is the parsonage and vicarage, the latter a genteel residence; while near the church is another dwelling, more ancient, called *Park house,* once part of the estate of Boxley abbey, which became the property of Sir Thomas Wyatt, whose son forfeited this, among his other estates, to the crown for treason. How it afterwards passed, we have not ascertained, though it seems to have been restored to his descendants. At the commencement of the last century it was in the possession of the family of the St. John's; in which line it remained till Mrs. St. John, joining with her son, Paulet St. John, sold it, in 1720, to Maudistley Best, esq., son of Mr. Thomas Best, of Chatham, who resided and kept his shrievalty here in 1730, having borne for his arms, *Sable, two cross crosslets in chief, and a cinque-foil in base, or:* he died in 1740, leaving two sons, Thomas, late of Chilston; James, of Chatham; and a daughter, married to the Hon. Robert Fairfax, of Leeds castle. He gave by will this seat to his youngest son, James, who resided there, and died in 1782, leaving four sons and four daughters; the eldest of the former having inherited this estate.

A warren for rabbits once existed here, the lands of which

lay close at the foot of the chalk hills ; this formerly belonged to Boxley abbey, and constituted part of the estate of Lord Romney. There was also another portion converted into a warren, lying near Penenden heath, which was part of the Park house estate, and as such became the property of Mr. Best; but the name only of the warren remains, the rabbits having been long destroyed, and the land made arable.

About a mile eastward from the village, in a low flat situation, and at no great distance from the high road, is Boxley abbey, where once stood the famous *rood of Grace,* with the image of St. Rumbald ; but the monks so imposed upon the credulity of the people, that they became publicly execrated, when the rood and image were taken from them, and broken to pieces, at St. Paul's Cross, in 1538, the whole cheat having been there fully exposed.

Contiguous to the abbey is a small hamlet of houses: and nearer the hills, the abbey farm, the plantation of the estate called the *Park house,* the old seat of which was situated in Maidstone parish, near the high road to Rochester. The late Sir Henry Calder, to whom it belonged, pulled down the antique mansion, and on a beautiful spot adjoining, within this parish, began to erect a handsome stone dwelling. On his death, the structure was finished by his widow, who, with her son, Sir Henry, lived here for a period ; after which it became the residence of a Mr. Osborne.

At a small distance eastward hence, nearly in the centre of the parish, Maidstone only stretching in a point or nook over part of this district, is the famous plain called Penenden, a spot celebrated in early times, the western part being in Maidstone parish, and the remainder in that of Boxley. From its central situation in this county, Penenden heath has been, time out of mind, used for all county meetings; and on a conspicuous hill, upon the opposite side of the heath, though in Maidstone parish, stands the gallows used for the public execution of criminals.

At the period of the Conquest it was the spot selected for the public meetings of the county, as, in the record of Domesday, mention is made that, when the inhabitants of Kent were summoned to collect *ad scirum,* that is, in public assembly at the Shynegemot or sheriff's tourn, for the trial of certain customs

therein mentioned, it is specified that the populace should repair, for that purpose, as far as *Pinnedenna*, but no farther.

In 1076, being the 11th of William the Conqueror, a famous assembly was held at this place on the following occasion:

Odo bishop of Bayeux and earl of Kent had, by means of his great power, defrauded the church of Canterbury of many manors and lands, of which he kept possession; Archbishop Lanfranc, however, who succeeded to the see in 1070, represented the injury sustained by his church to the king, who forthwith commanded that inquiry should be made respecting the same, when the matter was determined by the nobles, not only of Kent, but other counties of England, in an assembly collected for that purpose on Penenden heath.

There were present at the meeting in question, Goisfrid bishop of Constance, who sat as the representative of the king; Archbishop Lanfranc, who pleaded the cause of his church; Odo earl of Kent, who defended himself against the alleged accusations; Ernest bishop of Rochester; Algeric bishop of Chester, an old man well versed in the laws of the realm, who, on account of his great age, was by order of the king conveyed thither in a waggon, *in una quadriga*; Richard de Tunibridge; Hugh de Montfort; William de Arsic; Hamo Vicecomes, or sheriff; and many other barons of the king, and archbishop, together with the tenants of those bishops; all being men of considerable note.

The trial lasted three days, at the end of which the archbishop recovered several of the ancient possessions of his church, as well from Odo as Hugh de Montfort and Ralph de Curva Spina, and also finally established the liberties in matters relating to the king and himself.

On the south side of the heath the turnpike road from Maidstone, through Detling, to Key street and Sittingbourne, crosses this parish; another branching off hence to Bersted and Ashford. In the southern part are the hamlets of Grove green and Wavering street, Newnham court, and the beautiful seat of Vinters, pleasantly situated; below which is the stream that turns the papermills, and separates this parish from Maidstone. At Grove is a remarkable fine vein of fuller's earth, by the working of which, Mr. John Watts, who was owner of the same at the commencement of this century, became famous. This earth

was worked as early as 1630, at which period John Kay, merchant of London, was sentenced to a severe fine, and punished in the Star chamber, for having transported a quantity clandestinely to Holland. The vein lies thirty feet deep, being about seven feet thick, of which there are two sorts, the blue and the dark grey, the latter of which, lying under the former, is considered the most valuable. Great quantities of this earth are sent hence by sea for the use of the clothiers in distant countries. In 1711, a Roman urn was dug up at Grove by the workmen, near the vein of fuller's earth, and several others afterwards, with various relics of antiquity, and coins, most of the latter having the inscription of the Emperor Adrian; some have also been found at Vinter's and Goddard's hill, in this parish, where there are several piles of stones, similar to those about Horsted.

Boxley was, at the taking of the survey of Domesday, part of the estates of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was therein entered.

Upon the disgrace of that prelate it became forfeited to the crown, and in 1146, William d'Ipre, earl of Kent, who afterwards became a monk at Laon, in Flanders, founded an ABBEY at this place for brothers of the Cistertian order, some of whom he caused to be removed from Claravalle, in Burgundy, for that purpose, and dedicated his establishment to the Virgin Mary, as were all the houses of that order. The first Cistertian monastery in England was founded at Waverly, and built in 1129 by Walter Gifford, esq., bishop of Winchester: this community was a branch of the Benedictines, called, from their habit, White Monks, and likewise Cistertians; which last name they received from the town of Cistertium or Cisteaux, in the bishopric of Chalons, in Burgundy, where the order was first instituted by Robert abbot of Molesme, in 1098. There existed eighty-five houses of this order at the time of the Dissolution, in England.

Richard I., in his 1st year, A.D. 1189, gave the manor of Boxley to this abbey; which grant was confirmed by Henry III. That monarch also granted a weekly market within the manor of Boxley, which was held at a place called Farthings.

Edward II., in his 15th year, honoured this abbey with his presence, where, on the 25th of October, he granted to the aldermen and citizens of London the privilege of nominating a

mayor from their own body; and Edward III. also accorded to the abbot *free warren* in their manor of Boxele.

In the reign of Richard II. the revenues of the abbey were valued at £218 19 10, whereof £98 19 7, were in the diocese of Canterbury.

John Dobbes, the last abbot, surrendered the establishment of Boxley into the hands of Henry VIII. on the 29th of January, in the 29th year of the reign of that prince. It was endowed, at the dissolution, with £204 4 11 per annum clear revenue according to Dugdale, whereas the estimate of Speed is £218 9 10 per annum yearly income. The coat of arms appertaining to this abbey was, *Argent, a dexter bend lozenge, gules, on a canton of the second, a crozier or pastoral staff of the field.* This coat, without the crozier, as also another, presenting a pastoral staff surmounted by a bend, are still remaining in a garden at the back of the abbey, carved in stone, upon the capital of two pillars, from which springs a small circular arch.

There was a chapel, dedicated to St. Andrew the Apostle, that stood near the outer gate of this monastery, which was served by a curate appointed for that purpose.

The lands of the abbey of Boxley were exempted from the payment of all tithes. In the church was the statue of St. Rumbald, usually called by the common people Grumbald, who was held in great veneration by the multitude, on account of his sanctity, and the miracles said to have been performed through his means.

Henry VIII. exchanged this monastery, with the house and site, for other premises, and granted the whole to Sir Thomas Wyatt. On the execution of his son for rebellion, this estate was confiscated to the crown, when Queen Mary granted the manor to his widow, the Lady Jane Wyatt; on whose death, her son, George, succeeded to the same; but the abbey seems to have continued vested in the crown, as Queen Elizabeth, in her 11th year, granted the site and mansion to John Astley, for a term of years. In the 13th of that reign, George Wyatt, esq. was restored in blood by Act of Parliament, and became possessed of this seat, having had the fee granted to him by the crown. He died in 1624, and was buried in the chancel of this church, as were his descendants, who bore for their arms, *Per fess, azure, and gules, a barnacle argent, the ring or.* He left

several sons and daughters, of whom, the second son, Haute Wyatt, was vicar of this parish; and Francis, the eldest, succeeded him in the manor of Boxley, as well as the mansion of the abbey, the Grange, and his other estates in this parish. He was soon after knighted, twice made governor of Virginia, and died in 1644, leaving two sons; Henry, his eldest and heir; and Edwin, who afterwards became possessed of the manor, seat, and estates above mentioned; and a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Thomas Bosvile, esq. of Littlemote, in Eynsford, whose daughter, Margaret, became the wife of Sir Robert Marsham, bart. great grandfather of Lord Romney.

Henry Wyatt, esq. was of Boxley abbey, and left an only daughter and heir, Frances, who carried this manor and seat, with the Grange, and other estates, above mentioned, in marriage to Sir Thomas Selyard, bart.; but Edwin Wyatt, the younger brother of Sir Henry, disputing Lady Selyard's title, recovered the manor of Boxley; but the abbey, with the lands adjoining, remained in the possession of Sir Thomas Selyard.

Sir Thomas Selyard, or Segliard, as the name was frequently spelt, was grandson of John Seyliard, of Delaware, in this county, whose eldest son, Sir John Selyard, of Chiddingstone, was father of Sir Thomas, of Boxley abbey, above mentioned. His second son, John Selyard, esq. was of Salmons, in Penshurst, ancestor to those of that place, as well as Blechingley and London. They bore for their arms *Azure, a chief ermine;* which coat, belonging to an ancestor of this family, is carved on the roof of the cloisters of Canterbury cathedral.

Edwin Wyatt, esq., above mentioned, was made a sergeant at law in 1684, having been also justice of the peace, recorder of Canterbury and Maidstone, a burgess in Parliament for the latter place, and chief justice of the grand sessions for the counties of Carmarthen, Pembroke, and Cardigan. At what time this family altered the ancient spelling of their name from Wyatt to Wiat, we cannot ascertain, though we believe Mr. Sergeant Wiat was the first who adopted the same, and died in 1714, aged eighty-five, having been buried with his ancestors, in the chancel of this church. He left several sons and daughters, and was succeeded by his eldest surviving child, Francis Wiat, esq., who resided at Quekes, in Thanet, having married the widow of William Buller, esq. of Cornwall. He died

without issue, and devised his estates by will to his kinsman, Robert lord Romney.

A court-leet and court-baron is regularly held for this manor, the tenants of which are freeholders in free socage tenure.

Boxley abbey remained with Sir Thomas Seyliard above mentioned, whose son, of the same name, left two daughters and coheirs, viz. Margaret, married to Mr. Nicholas; and Elizabeth, to Mr. Medlicott, who sold the property to Mr. John Austen, of Sevenoak, and he passed it away to Edward Austen, esq. On the death of Sir Sheffield Austen, bart., the above-mentioned Edward Austen succeeded to that title, who resided at Boxley abbey, and married Susanna, daughter of Mr. Walsingham, of Callis court, in Ryarsh. He died without issue in 1760, and was succeeded by his only brother, Robert Austen, esq. of Tenterden, who also died in 1772, without issue, when the title became extinct.

By his will he devised Boxley abbey, among the rest of his estates, to his wife's cousin, John, son of Nicholas Amherst, of West Barming, in tail general; remainder to the late John Amherst, esq. of Rochester, and the two sons of Mr. James Allen, subject to the life of Lady Austen, and a power to her of devising the same. Lady Austen, by will, confirmed Sir Edward's disposition of his estate, and on her death, John Amherst, esq. succeeded to Boxley abbey, with the rest of Sir Edward Austen's estates in this county.

Newnham court is a manor situated at the south-east corner of this parish, which, as we have already mentioned, belonged to the abbey of Boxley, and being, after the suppression, granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Wyatt, became forfeited to the crown by the attainder of his son. It so remained till Queen Elizabeth, in her 11th year, granted it, for a term of years, to John Astley, esq., master of her jewels, and the fee of the same subsequently to his son, Sir John Astley, who alienated it to his nephew, Sir Norton Knatchbull, bart. He alienated this manor, in the reign of Charles II., to Sir John Banks, bart., who died in 1699, leaving two daughters his coheirs, the eldest of whom, Elizabeth, married Heneage Finch, second son of the earl of Nottingham, and on the division of their inheritance, he became in her right entitled to the same.

There is no court held for this manor, which is subordinate to that of Boxley.

Wavering is a hamlet in the southern part of this parish, the manor and estate of which seems, in the reign of Richard I., to have been part of the possessions of the family of the Hougham's, of Hougham, near Dover, and at the period in question, according to letters patent of Richard I., in his 1st year, he granted the manor of Boxley to the abbot and convent. The monks also possessed some lands at Wavering, as the same monarch confirmed to them certain agreements made between the brotherhood and John de Horsepole and his sons for the land at this place; and Henry III., in his 37th year, granted to them certain liberties within their demesne lands at Wavering. What afterwards became of this portion we do not find, but most probably it was esteemed as part of their manor of Boxley, and continued in their possession.

Another part of Wavering seems, about the same time, to have been vested in the family of the Bourne's, of Bourne, near Barham, John de Bourne having held lands in Wavering under Henry III.; and in the reign of the following prince, one Bourne had a charter of *free warren* for his lands here and elsewhere in this county.

The greatest part of Wavering, however, as well as the manor itself, appears to have continued vested in the family of Hougham.

Robert de Hougham died possessed of the estate in the 2d of King Edward I., when it was found that he held of the king, *in capite,* in Wavering, 40s. rent, rendering this service from it, namely, that whenever the king should march with his army towards Wales, he should find a horse of the price of 5s., with a wallet and a broach, for forty days, at the cost of the king; and his son, of the same name, died possessed of the property in the 29th year of that reign, holding it *in capite,* by the like service. His daughter, Benedicta de Hougham, carried her interest in this place in marriage to John de Shelving, of Shelvingbourne, son of Waretius, whose father, John, by marriage with Helen, daughter and heir of John de Bourne, about the latter end of the reign of Edward I., possessed also his property in Wavering.

John de Shelving, the grandson, died holding this manor in

the 4th of Edward III., which he possessed by the service above mentioned; and his wife, Benedicta, died proprietor of the same in the 22d year of the above prince, when it devolved to their daughter and heir, Benedicta, wife of Sir Edmund de Haute, of Haute's court, in Petham, whose eldest son, Nicholas, leaving two sons, Nicholas, of Petham, and William, of Bishopsbourne, the latter possessed this manor of Wavering. It then descended to Sir William Haute, of Bishopsbourne, who lived during the reign of Henry VIII., and left by his second wife, Mary, relict of Christopher Kempe, daughter of Sir Richard Guldeford, two daughters and coheirs. On the partition of their inheritance, the manor of Waverly was allotted to Sir Thomas Wyatt, in right of his wife, Jane, the youngest of them; and an Act was passed, under Henry VIII., for this confirmation. On the attainder of his son under Mary, it became forfeited to the crown, where it remained till Elizabeth, in her 24th year, restored it to Lady Jane Wyatt, his widow, and her son, George, for three lives; but the reversion continued in the crown till Charles I. granted the fee to Stephen Alcock, esq. of Rochester. He alienated the estate to Sir Francis Wyatt, son of George Wyatt, above mentioned, who then possessed the term in this manor, and died holding it in 1644; after which it passed, with the manor of Boxley and his other estates, to the Seyliard's. From the latter name it was recovered at law, in the account of that manor by Mr. Sergeant Wiat, and afterwards devised with them, by his youngest surviving son, Richard, in 1753, to his relation, Robert lord Romney, whose son, Charles lord Romney, afterwards possessed the same.

The feefarm of this manor was purchased of the crown by Sir Robert Marsham, in the reign of Charles II.

There is no court held for this manor, which is now included in the paramount manor of Boxley.

Vinters, formerly called Vintners, the mansion of which is situated in the southern part of this parish, anciently afforded both seat and surname to its possessors.

Roger Vinter resided here, and was one of the conservators of the Peace for this county in the 18th of King Edward III., A.D. 1343, in the 40th year of which prince he founded a chantry in Maidstone church, called Gould's chantry, from the estate with which he endowed it. His son, John Vinter, in the

10th of King Henry IV., sold it to John, son of Sir Ralph de Fremingham, of Loose, who dying two years after, without issue, it devolved to Roger Isley, of Sundrish, as nearest of blood; and in his descendants Vinters continued down to Sir Henry Isley, who procured the disgavelment of his lands.

After the attainder of Sir Roger Isley, Queen Mary granted this seat to the Cutts's, who, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, alienated it to Sir Cavaliero Maycott or Mackworth, who, about the middle of the reign of James I., conveyed it by sale to William Court, esq. of Hougham, in Sussex. His son, Walter, about the beginning of the reign of Charles I., alienated the property to Sir William Tufton, fourth son of Sir John Tufton, bart. of Hothfield, a younger brother of Nicholas, created baron Tufton and earl of Thanet. He resided at Vinters, and was created a baronet of the kingdom of Ireland by Charles I.

On his death, his eldest son, Sir Benedict Tufton succeeded to this estate, who dying without issue, his next brother, Sir Charles Tufton, bart. became possessed of the same, who, in the reign of Charles II., alienated it to Daniel Whyte, esq. He resided here, and died possessed of it in 1689, whose son, of the same name, in the reign of Queen Anne, passed it away by sale to Sir Samuel Ongley, one of the South Sea directors, who devised it to his nephew, Samuel Ongley, esq. of Old Warden, in Bedfordshire, in tail. Upon his demise, in 1747, this seat passed, by virtue of the will of Sir Samuel Ongley, to Robert Henley, esq., barrister at law, who assumed the surname of Ongley, and was afterwards of Old Warden, and in 1776 created baron Ongley of the kingdom of Ireland. In 1783 he obtained an Act empowering him to vest this estate in trustees, to be sold, and they accordingly conveyed it to James Whatman, esq. of this parish, who afterwards rebuilt the mansion in a very elegant style.

Mr. Whatman was twice married; by his first wife he had two daughters, and by his second one son, James. He served the office of sheriff in 1767, and bore for his arms, *Party per pale, or, and sable, a pheon counterchanged.*

This seat was for many years inhabited as tenants by the family of Champneis, many of whom are, from time to time, mentioned in the parish register of Boxley, the first individual thus noticed having been Walter Champneis, A.D. 1582. The

last occupant, of the above name, was Henry Champneis, esq., who died there in 1781, unmarried.

Ovenhelle, now commonly called *Overhill farm*, from its situation on the chalk hills in this parish, was once accounted a manor, and in the reign of Edward I. held in sergeantry by Sir Osbert de Longocampo or Longchamp, by the service of attending the king and his army into Wales forty days, at his own expense. Soon after, it became the property of Stephen de Pencestre, by one of whose daughters and coheirs, Joan, it went in marriage to Stephen de Cobham, of Rundell, in Shorne, who possessed it in the reign of Edward II., and was a baron of this realm. His son, John de Cobham, of Rundell, died possessed of it in the 36th of Edward III., holding it by the like service.

He left two sons, Thomas and Reginald, of whom, the eldest, Sir Thomas Cobham, succeeded him here, and died in the 17th of Richard II., being then possessed of this manor, situated in Ovenhell, in Boxley, held of the king *in capite*, by the above-mentioned service. It continued in his descendants till alienated to the Wyatt's: Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington, died owner of the manor of Ovenhill in the reign of Henry VIII., holding it *in capite*, by knight's service, leaving Sir Thomas Wyatt his son and heir, upon whose attainder, this manor became forfeited to the crown; but being regranted to this family, it so continued till Richard Wiat, esq. dying in 1753, without issue, bequeathed it by will to Robert lord Romney, whose son, Charles lord Romney, afterwards possessed it.

Queen Mary, in her 1st year, granted to George Clarke several parcels of land in Boxley, late belonging to the abbey of Boxley, and parcel of the estate of Sir Thomas Wyatt, with the Grange, called the Nether Grange, to distinguish it from the Upper. On his death, in the 1st of Queen Elizabeth, his son, George Clarke, succeeded to them, by the description of one messuage, 340 acres of land, meadow and pasture, in Boxley, to hold of the queen as above mentioned. In the 22d year of that reign, he alienated it to Robert Brewer, gent., whose son and heir, John Brewer, esq., in 1611, succeeded him in these premises, of which he appears to have been possessed in the reign of Charles I. It was afterwards purchased by James Calder, esq., whose son, Brigadier General Sir Henry Calder, bart. died possessed of it in 1792, leaving his widow surviving, with an infant son, Sir

Henry Calder, bart.; and in them the fee and possession of this estate was subsequently vested.

There is a large farm, called the COURT-LODGE, which was possessed by the family of the Bartholomew's, one of which, Leonard Bartholomew, esq. of Oxenhoath, dying without issue in 1757, bequeathed it by will to the second son of Sir Francis Geary, of Polsden, in Surrey, which second son, Sir William Geary, bart. of Oxenhoath, afterwards possessed it.

THE GROVE is an estate in the southern part of this parish, which, in the reign of Henry IV., was conveyed by Isabel de Wavering to Thomas Burbige, whose descendant, of the same name, possessed the Grove, and other lands adjoining, in the reign of Henry VII. Subsequent to that period, great part of the land was, from time to time, sold off, but the portion which remained with the house descended to Thomas Burbige, who dying without issue, and being the last heir male, gave it by will to his sister; and she, in 1702, conveyed it by sale to Mr. John Watts, who afterwards became famous for working the fine vein of fuller's earth, previously adverted to.

His heirs passed it away by sale to General William Belford, who died in 1780, leaving two sons and one daughter. The sons, Gustavus and William, were both officers in the army, and by the will of their father, became jointly possessed of this estate; the former, Colonel Gustavus Belford, possessed one moiety of the estate, and the latter died leaving two daughters his coheirs, who became entitled to the other moiety. They bore for their arms, *Argent, a chevron, a rose in base gules.*

BOXLEY is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. The church, dedicated to All Saints, stands on the east side of the village; it is not large, but neat, and contains three aisles and a chancel, with a handsome square tower, containing four bells, cast in 1652 by Mr. Darby.

The vicar of Boxley has all the tithes from wood, hops, hay, clover, cinque-foil, flax, fruit, and pasture; and for Easter offerings he can also demand of every person, above the age of sixteen, 6d., and of a man and his wife, 1s.

He receives a pension of £8 per annum, payable out of the Exchequer, as an augmentation, the fees for receiving which, if collected by himself, is 12s., if by another, 20s. In 1733, the

vicarage was valued at £200, and subsequently estimated at £300 per annum.

In 1821 there were 201 dwellings in the parish of Boxley; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 577, females 589, making a total of 1166 souls.

The next parish eastward from Boxley is DETLING, written in ancient records *Detlinget.*

THE VILLAGE OF DETLING is situated at the foot of the chalk hills, the turnpike road from Maidstone, over the hill here, to Key street and Sittingbourne, leading through it. The manors of East and West court are situated within the parish, the church standing near the west side. This street appears anciently to have been called *Polley street*, from the family of that name which had its origin here, where they resided; they were anciently written Polley or Polhill, the direct descendant having been Charles Polhill, esq. of Chipsted, and there are yet lands in this parish called Polley fields. The soil of this place, and below the hill, consists, in general, of chalk, being very poor and unfertile; in the south-west part there is much coppice wood; above the hill it is equally poor, and consists of a cold red unproductive earth, intermixed with a quantity of flints. Upon the whole, this parish is little frequented, and would be more obscure was it not for the turnpike road leading through it. The air is extremely healthy, but the chalk and stony soil render it particularly unpleasant, either as a residence or to travel through.

THIS PLACE is said to have been part of the ancient possessions of the archbishopric of Canterbury, and so continued till the time of the Conquest, when Odo bishop of Bayeux wrested it from that church; soon after which, Archbishop Lanfranc coming to the see, recovered this manor, among others, in the noted assembly held on Pinenden heath in 1076.

It appears by the inquisition taken throughout England in the 12th and 13th of King John, that Detling was then in the possession of a family which took its surname from this district, and that William de Detling then held it of the archbishop of Canterbury by knight's service, as half a knight's fee. In

memory of this family, Philipott says, there was once a report that a massy lance, cased over with thin iron plate, was preserved in this church, like that of William the Conqueror, at Battle, in Sussex, and deposited here as a memorial of their achievements in arms, and an emblem of their extraordinary strength and prowess. There was also the bust of a man on a piece of ancient gravestone, reported to have belonged to the monument of Sir John Detling.

The family of Detling afterwards assumed also the surname of Brampton, being written in old deeds Brampton or Detling, of Detling court, where they resided till the beginning of the reign of Henry IV., when John Brampton or Detling leaving an only daughter and heir, Benedicta, she carried this manor in marriage to Thomas at Towne, of Towne's place, in Throwley. He likewise died without issue male, leaving three daughters his coheirs, on the partition of whose inheritance, about the 24th of Henry VI., this manor was allotted to Eleanor, the eldest, wife of Richard Lewknor. He alienated the property, not long after, to Sir Richard de Wydevill, or Woodvill, as he was generally called, created by Henry VI., in his 26th year, lord Rivers and knight of the Garter; four years after, while being at his seat at Grafton, near Northampton, he was seized by a tumultuous concourse of people, who had assembled in favor of King Henry, and there put to death. His eldest son, Henry lord Scales, leaving no legitimate issue, Richard, his brother, succeeded him in his honours and estates, which King Richard III. did not suffer him to enjoy, but made a grant of this manor, among the rest of the earl's lands in this county, to Robert Brakenbury, esq., on whom he, at the same time, conferred the office of constable of the Tower. On the accession of Henry VII. he was attainted of high treason, and his estates became confiscated to the crown; soon after, this manor, which had been before alienated to Richard Lewknor, esq., was confirmed to him by the king, when his only daughter carried it in marriage to George Hilles; on whose death, without male issue, his two daughters became his coheirs; one of whom married a Martin, and the other a Vincent, when they divided this manor into separate moieties: that called *East court* was allotted to Martin, and the other, called *West court,* to Vincent, in right of their respective wives.

The manor of East court was alienated, in the reign of Elizabeth, to John Webbe, gent. who resided there; from which name it passed by sale, in the reign of James I., to that of Smith, and he, under Charles I., conveyed it to Sir Edward Henden, one of the barons of the Exchequer. By the latter it was devised by will to his nephew, Sir John Henden, of Biddenden, who passed it away by sale to Sir John Beale, bart. of Farningham, who died in 1684, leaving two daughters his coheirs, when, on the partition of their inheritance, this manor fell to the share of the youngest, married to William Emmerton, esq. of Chipsted, and he sold it to Francis Foote, esq. of Veryon, in Cornwall. He left two sons, Benjamin and Francis; and a daughter, afterwards married to Mr. Pearson; and was succeeded in this manor by his eldest son, Benjamin, who also left two sons, George and John: he bore for his arms, *Vert, a chevron argent, between three doves, or.* He died in 1791, when his son, George, succeeded him in this estate.

The manor of West court, in the possession of Vincent, was alienated to Mr. William Moreton, of White house, in Croydon, who possessed it under Philip and Mary; and in that family it continued till the Restoration, in 1660, when the manor and great part of this estate devolved to the possession of Thomas Barnett, esq. of Shoreham. He died in 1751, and his heirs, about the year 1766, passed it by sale to Benjamin Foote, esq., likewise owner of East court; in consequence of which, these divided manors were united in the same owner, George Talbot Foote, esq.

A court-baron is regularly held for the manor of Detling, the jurisdiction of which extends over the manor of Henkhurst, in Staplehurst.

Detling is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. The church, dedicated to St. Martin, is a small building, with a low pointed steeple, and is situated at the south-west end of the village. It was anciently esteemed but as a chapel of ease to the church of Maidstone, and under the patronage of the see of Canterbury.

This church is exempt from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon of Canterbury. The vicarage is a discharged living, and entered in the king's books, of the clear value of £30 per annum.

In 1821 there were fifty-eight dwellings in the parish of

Detling; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 166, females 155, making a total of 321 souls.

Adjoining the parish of Maidstone, southward, lies that of Loose, written in ancient records, *Hlose* and *Lose*. It most probably derived its name from the stream which here loses itself for some space underground, *hlosan*, in Saxon, signifying to lose, or be lost.

The parish is situated both healthily and pleasantly, the soil being in general very fertile, and extremely fruitful in hops, with which it abounds. The length from north to south is about two miles, but it is narrow across. The high road from Maidstone towards the Weald, over Coxheath, runs along the eastern boundary of this district, as does the stream which rises at Langley, flowing through the valley at the western boundary. This stream, about a mile from its rise, loses itself at Brishing, underground, running through a subterraneous passage for near half a mile, and on that account this parish is supposed to take its name, as previously mentioned. We must here observe that there are many instances in this kingdom of rivers losing themselves in this manner: namely, the Lyn, in Devonshire, the Mole, in Surrey, &c.

The stream again rises near the quarries, at the eastern bounds of this parish, and then runs north-west to this village, situated on the Maidstone road, about half a mile from Coxheath, on the steep ascent of a hill, at the foot of which is the church in the centre. On the east side, at a small distance, is Salts place, a seat formerly possessed by the family of the Bufkin's, which owned considerable estates in this county. From that name it went to John Martin, esq. of Stanmer, in Sussex, who bore for his arms, *Gules, a lion rampant, and eight cross crosslets, or.* His son, Denny Martin, afterwards resided here, having married Frances, one of the daughters of Thomas lord Fairfax, by whom he had several sons and daughters, and she died possessed of it in 1791, since which her eldest son, the Rev. Denny Martin, who took the name of Fairfax, and possessed Leeds castle, became the owner. At the village, the above-mentioned stream receives another, which rises on the hill just above the

church, and then having crossed the road, flows northward, leaving Loose court and Hales place a little to the right. The neatness and rural elegance of the grounds belonging to the former greatly contribute to the beauty of the place; while the latter, situated on the side of a hill, presents a pleasant view over the country northwestward. It was formerly called Le Hayle, and, from its ancient gateway, seems to have been an habitation of some account in past times. It belonged to the family of the Beale's for several descents, and so continued till a female heir carried it in marriage to Mr. William Post, gent. of London, who in 1763 new fronted the house, where he afterwards resided. After passing this latter seat, the stream flows on, and joins the Medway, between UPPER and LOWER TOVILL; and, although in its course through this parish it runs little more than two miles, yet there are so many mills on its banks for different manufactories, within sight of each other, that it may be said to form a chain of them along the whole of its current.

LOOSE was given by King Ethelwolf, son of Egbert, about the year 832, to a widow named Sueta, and her daughter, who made a donation of it to the monks of the priory of Christ church, in Canterbury, when that fraternity allotted it towards defraying the expense of their clothing.

This place is not mentioned in the record of Domesday, as it adjoined East Farleigh, and was, as well as that place, part of the possessions of the above priory, and most probably included in the description of that manor. In the reign of Edward I. the manor of Loose, with its appurtenances, was valued at £18. Edward II., by a charter in his 10th year, confirmed to the prior *free warren* in all demesne lands acquired since the time of his grandfather, so that they were not within the bounds of the forest. This manor continued part of the possessions of the priory, till its dissolution under Henry VIII., when that king settled it on his new erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, part of whose inheritance it has ever since continued.

There is a court-leet and court-baron held for this manor, at which are chosen borsholders for the boroughs of Wanshurst, Falksheath, and Pattenden in the Weald.

In the 33d of Henry VIII. the lessee of this manor was Stephen Astyn, and his successor John Smythe. In 1630 Robert Swinock was tenant, who held it till after the death of

Charles I.; and in 1661 the lease was granted to Alabaster Fludd, esq., who was succeeded by Benjamin Calamy. In 1724 William Barrowby, M.D. held it, and soon after parted with his interest in the same to John Hayes, as he did to Thomas Crispe, commonly called Cripps, in which name it continued down to Mr. Thomas Crispe, gent., who resided here, and by his continual improvements in the grounds and waters, rendered the place a most delightful spot. His only son, John Crispe, succeeded, and died in 1792, when the property went to his sister Elizabeth, whose husband, Mr. John Penfold, became in her right entitled to the lease of this manor.

There seems to have been *another manor* in this parish, also styled THE MANOR OF LOOSE, once the inheritance of the noted family of the Fremingham's, which, from being styled of Loose, most probably had some mansion for its residence in this parish.

John, son of Sir Ralph de Fremingham, of Loose, died in the 12th of Henry IV. possessed of this manor, who leaving no issue, devised it by will to feoffees, and they, the following year, assigned it over to John, son of Reginald de Pimpe, of Pimpe's court, in East Farleigh, and his heirs male, with remainder to Roger Isle, as being next in blood to him. After this period, the manor, by unity of possession, became blended with that estate, and so remained, as may be seen under the description of the parish of East Farleigh.

LOOSE is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury, and *deanery* of Sutton. The church, dedicated to All Saints, is a small building, having a pointed steeple, and was anciently esteemed but as a *chapel of ease* to the church of Maidstone.

In 1640 the curacy was valued at £36 per annum, and in 1643 the sequestrators of Archbishop Laud's revenue craved the allowance of £2 13 4. Archbishop Juxon, A.D. 1661, in consequence of the king's letters mandatory, augmented the stipend of this curacy in the annual sum of £5 13 4.

It is not in charge in the king's books.

In 1821 there were 166 dwellings in the parish of Loose; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants

were as follow: males 448, females 434, making a total of 882 souls.

Southward from Loose, on the opposite side of Coxsheath, lies the parish of Linton, anciently written *Lyllyngton*, and in Latin *Lillintuna*, which probably took its name from the old English word *lyttan*, signifying little or small, and *stane*, a stone, the upper part of this parish abounding in quarry rock.

This Parish lies adjoining Coxsheath, upon the ridge of quarry hills, the summit of which is the northern boundary of the Weald of Kent, consequently the whole is almost within that district, a small part of the heath only stretching beyond it. Coxsheath is a beautiful, and, for this enclosed part of the country, an extensive plain, being about three miles in length, and in some places more than a mile wide. It is esteemed a most healthy spot, and, as there is abundance of water, is generally preferred as a situation for large encampments, it being equally commodious for the troops to march thence on an emergency, either into the counties of Sussex or Essex. In 1778 there were 15,000 men upon Coxsheath, which encampment did not occupy more than two thirds of the whole extent. Over this heath the high road from Maidstone runs through this parish and village, into the Weald. The village is situated about a mile from the heath, on the declivity of the hill, having the church and Place house on the east side, the prospect from which, southward, over the Weald, is very beautiful, and of great extent. The air is healthy, the soil on the hill of loam, with the quarry stone close beneath, and below the hill it is a stiff clay. About one mile from the hill the road crosses the river at Style bridge.

The chief part of this parish is within the bounds of the manor of East Farleigh, though the manor of Loose extends over a small part; the freeholders of the former holding their lands in free socage tenure.

This place is not mentioned in Domesday, having been, most probably, included in the description there given of the manor of East Farleigh.

Linton Place, anciently called *Capell's court*, is the only spot of consequence in this parish. It originally derived its

name from the family of the Capell's, who were proprietors of this estate. They were usually called, according to the custom of the time, *at Capell,* and in Latin, *de Capella,* their principal residence having been at Capell's court, in Ivechurch, in Romney marsh, though they had large estates in several other parishes in this county. One of this race, John de Capella, in the reign of Henry III., held lands in Boxley, as appears by the charter of Inspeximus, granted by that king to the abbey there.

Richard de Capell, his successor, died in the 15th of Richard II., in whose descendants this place remained till the reign of Henry VI., when it was alienated to Richard Baysden, from which name it passed in the reign of Elizabeth, to Sir Anthony Maney, of Biddenden, whose ancestors had resided there for many generations, and he removed his seat thither. His son, Walter Maney, was succeeded by his son John, who was a loyal adherent to Charles I., in consideration of which, he was created a baronet. He afterwards suffered much for his attachment to that unfortunate prince, having had his estate plundered and sequestered.

He bore for his arms, *party per pale, argent and sable; three chevronels between as many cinque-foils, counterchanged.*

He passed away this seat and estate in the reign of Charles II. to Sir Francis Withers, whose only daughter and heir Catherine, in 1710, carried it in marriage to Sir Thomas Twysden, bart. of East Peckham, and he died in 1712, leaving two daughters his coheirs. Upon his demise his widow became entitled to this estate, and soon afterwards again conveyed it in marriage to General Jocelyn, a younger son of Sir Robert Jocelyn, of Herts, who died in 1727, leaving by Lady Twisden three sons. It was afterwards alienated to Robert Mann, esq., who built a small but elegant seat here, partly on the site of the old mansion of Capell's court, where he resided till his death in 1751. By his will he devised Linton place, with the parsonage, and advowson of the vicarage, to his eldest son Edward, in tail male, with divers remainders. He resided here, and died unmarried in 1775, on which, by the above entail, it went to his next brother, Sir Horatio Mann, K.B. and bart., envoy extraordinary at Florence, where he died in 1786. During his life he made over this estate to his nephew, Sir Horace Mann, who succeeded him in this property, as well as the baronetage.

There were formerly some lands in this parish that belonged to a family named Welldish, who had a chapel in this church, called Welldish chapel; their arms were, as appears from their seals affixed to some ancient deeds, *Argent, three talbots passant, azure on a chief, or, a fox passant, gules,* which coat they bore, as is reported by tradition, to perpetuate the memory of one of their ancestors, who had been huntsman to William the Conqueror. After this estate had been many generations in the above family, the largest portion was alienated to Walter Maney, esq., and his son, Sir John, of Linton, sold it, in the reign of Charles II., to Sir Francis Withins, since which it passed in like manner as Linton place to Sir Horace Mann, bart.

LINTON is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Sutton. The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is a small building, having a spire steeple, and is situated on the east side of the village. The patronage was part of the ancient possessions of the crown, and so remained till it was given to the college or hospital for poor travellers, in the West Borough, at Maidstone, founded by Archbishop Boniface. In the 19th of Richard II., Archbishop Courtenay, on constituting the parish-church of Maidstone collegiate, with the king's license, gave and assigned, among other estates, the advowson and patronage of this church of Lyllyngton to that hospital, appropriated, and of the king's patronage, held of his majesty *in capite,* to the master and chaplains of the above-mentioned new collegiate church. This church was dissolved by the Act of the 1st of Edward VI., A.D. 1546, and surrendered into the king's hands.

In the 8th of Richard II. the church was valued at 106s. 8d. per annum, in 1640 the vicarage was valued at £30 per annum, and in 1751 the clear certified value was £61 7 8, yearly income.

This vicarage was afterwards valued in the king's books at £7 13 4, the yearly tenths being 15s. 4d. The parsonage, as well as the advowson of the vicarage, was held by grant from the crown in the reign of Elizabeth, by Alexander Grygsby, gent., in which name they continued in 1640. In 1728 they were purchased by Robert Mann, esq. of Linton place, when they passed, in like manner with that estate, to Sir Horace Mann, bart., who afterwards possessed the same.

In 1821, there were 107 dwellings in the parish of Linton; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 337, females 349, making a total of 686 souls.

Northwestward from Linton, on the opposite side of Coxsheath, and on the southern bank of the river Medway, lies the parish of EAST FARLEIGH, so called to distinguish it from that adjoining of West Farleigh, in Twyford hundred. It is called by Leland, in his Itinerary, Great Farleigh.

In the record of Domesday this district is written *Ferlaga*, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, FEARNLEGA, having most probably taken its name, as well as the parish of West Farleigh, from the passage over the river Medway, *fare*, in Saxon, signifying a journey or passage, and *lega*, a place, that is, the place of the way or passage.

The parish of East Farleigh is situated about two miles from Maidstone, lying on high ground, and the soil a loam, covering but very slightly a bed of quarry stone. It is extremely fertile, especially for fruit and hops, of which latter there are many plantations. The extent is about two miles either way, the river Medway constituting its northern boundary, over which is an old Gothic stone bridge, of five arches, repaired at the charge of the county. The tide has sometimes flowed as high as this bridge, but since locks have been erected to promote the navigation, it has been prevented from flowing higher than that just above Maidstone bridge. From the river the ground rises suddenly and steep to the southward, forming to the sight a beautiful combination of objects, having the village and church on the height, intersected by large spreading oaks, and plantations of fruit, and the luxuriant hop, while the river Medway, gliding its silvery stream below, reflects the varied landscape. The village through which the road leads from Tovill, to West Farleigh, stands on the knoll of a hill, about a quarter of a mile from the river, having the church and vicarage within its precincts. Eastward lies the hamlet of Dane street, and farther on, Pimpe's court, at the extremity of this parish, next to Loose, wherein lie part of the lands belonging thereto. At a small distance westward of the village of East Farleigh, is a house

formerly belonging to a family of the name of Darby, mentioned in the register of this parish as far back as the year 1653. Mr. John Darby, the last representative, died in 1755, and by will gave this house to his widow, Mary, daughter of Captain Elmstone, of Egerton, who married Mr. James Drury, of Maidstone, by whom she had one daughter. After his death, in 1764, she again became possessed of it, and resided here.

Hence the ground still keeps rising southward to Coxsheath, between which and the village is the manor of Gallants, part of the heath being in this parish, which extends within a quarter of a mile of the house, called Boughton Cock, part of Loose parish intervening, and entirely separating the eastern extremity from the rest. In this part of the parish are some quarries of Kentish ragstone, commonly called the Boughton quarries, from their lying mostly in that parish; and, on the banks of the Medway, there are more of the same sort, wholly in this parish of Farleigh.

A younger branch of the Clerk's, of Ford, in Wrotham, resided here in the reigns of Queen Elizabeth and James I., as appears by the parish register. Dr. Plot mentions, in his Natural History of Oxfordshire, some large teeth having been dug up here, one of which was seven inches round, and weighed five ounces and an eighth, but we can furnish no further information concerning them.

This place was given by Queen Ediva, mother of Kings Edmund and Eadred, in 961, to Christ church, in Canterbury, free from all secular service, except the repairing of bridges and building. It continued in the possession of that church at the time of the survey of Domesday, being entered under the general title of the lands of Christ church in that record.

In the reign of Edward I. the manor of East Farleigh, together with the estate, belonging to Christ church, in the neighbouring parish of Hunton, was valued at £42 per annum.

Edward II., in his 10th year, confirmed to the prior of Christ church, *free warren* in all the demesne lands which he possessed here at the time of his grandfather, or at any subsequent period. This manor continued part of the possessions of the priory till its dissolution in the 31st of Henry VIII., who granted it, among other premises, to Sir Thomas Wyatt; but, on the attainder of his son for treason, in the reign of Queen Mary,

this manor passed to the crown, and although the queen made a grant of the site and capital messuage to Sir John Baker, yet the manor itself continued in the crown, and so remained at the death of Charles I. in 1648. After that period the parliament passed an ordinance to vest the royal estates in trustees, for the purpose of sale, to supply the necessities of the state, when on a survey taken of this manor, it appeared that there were quit-rents due to the lord from freeholders, in free socage tenure in this parish, and also within the townships of Linton and East Peckham, and from several dens in the Weald: that there were also common fines from the borsholders of Stokenburie, in East Peckham, and of Badmonden, Stoberfield, and Roeden, the produce of which yearly, with the fines and profits of Courts *Coibus annis*, amounted in the total to £56 7 7½. There was a court-baron and court-leet, where the freeholders paid a heriot on demise or death of the best living thing of any such tenant, or, in lieu thereof, 3s. 4d.

Soon after, this manor was sold by the State to Colonel Robert Gibbon, with whom it continued till the restoration of Charles II., when it again became part of the revenues of the crown.

The grant has been many years in the family of the duke of Leeds, who held it at the yearly feefarm rental of 10s.

But the site and capital messuage of the manor of East Farleigh, now called the Court Lodge, with all the demesne lands of the manor, about 200 acres in East Farleigh and Linton were granted in the 1st and 2d years of Philip and Mary, to Sir John Baker, one of the queen's privy council, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service. He died in the 5th year of those potentates, and by will devised it to his second son, Mr. John Baker, of London, whose son, Sir Richard Baker, the chronicler, about the end of the reign of Elizabeth, alienated it to Sir Thomas Fane, of Burston, in Hunton. He died in 1606, without issue, and bequeathed this, among the rest of his estates, to Sir George Fane, second son of Sir Thomas Fane, of Badsell, by Mary his wife, baroness le Despencer. He was succeeded in 1640 by his eldest son, Colonel Thomas Fane, of Burston, who in the reign of Charles II. alienated the property to Mr. John Amhurst, who then resided at the court lodge, as tenant under him.

He was grandson of Nicholas Amhurst, who in 1616 was of

East Farleigh, to whom William Camden, clarencieux at arms, granted the following coat, viz. *Gules, three tilting spears, two and one erected in pale, or, headed argent.* He died in 1692, and was buried in this church, when his eldest son Nicholas Amherst (who altered the spelling of his name,) became his heir, and resided here, as tenant at the court lodge. He died in 1679.

John Amherst, gent., his eldest son, resided at the court lodge, which he afterwards purchased of Colonel Fane, above mentioned; this gentleman served the office of sheriff in 1699. He died in 1711, and by will gave the estate to his brother, Captain Nicholas Amherst, of Barnjet, who died in 1715.

He married Susanna Evering, by whom he had fifteen children; John, who resided at the court lodge, and died during the life of his father; George, the second son, who was twice married; Nicholas, who died in 1736, unmarried; Stephen, another son, was of West Farleigh, and died in 1760, leaving three sons; and Edward, who was of Barnjet, and died in 1756, without issue. Of the daughters, Susan married Edward Walsingham, of Callis court, in Ryarsh; Mary espoused John Miller; and Jane was united to James Allen. George Amherst, gent., above mentioned, the second but eldest surviving son of Capt. Nicholas Amherst, had the court lodge assigned him by his father's will, who having omitted to cut off an entail, his three other sons, Nicholas, Stephen, and Edward, claimed their respective shares therein. The entire fee, after much dispute, partly by purchase and agreement, became vested in Edward Amherst, gent., the youngest son, who died in 1756, and devised it by will to his next elder brother, Stephen Amherst, esq. of West Farleigh, who at his death, in 1760, gave it to his eldest son, John Amherst, esq. of Barnjet, who possessed the court lodge and the estate belonging thereto.

The mansion of the court lodge is situated adjoining to the west side of the churchyard; it has not been inhabited but by cottagers for many years, great part having been pulled down; in consequence of which, the remains present a very mean appearance.

Gallants is a manor in this parish, which seems to have been, in early times, the estate of a branch of the eminent family of the Colepeper's, whose arms still remain in the win-

dows of the church, wherein also is an ancient arched tomb, under which one of them was interred.

By an inquisition taken after the death of Walter Colepeper, of Tunbridge, under Edward III., it was found that he held in gavelkind, in fee, certain tenements in East Farleigh, of the prior of Christ church, by service, and making suit at the court of the prior of East Farleigh ; and that there was one capital messuage, with lands and rents, in money and in hens, whereby it appears to have been a manor, and that his sons, Thomas, Jeffry, and John, were his next heirs. The above premises seem to have been what is now called the manor of Gallants, which afterwards passed into the family of the Roper's, who held it for some time, the branch that possessed this manor being created by King James I. barons of Teynham ; one of them, John Roper, third lord Teynham, died possessed of it in 1627, as appears by the inquisition then taken. His grandson, Christopher lord Teynham, gave it in marriage with his daughter, Catherine, to William Sheldon, esq., whose descendant, Richard, of Aldington, in Thurnham, gave it by will to his widow, who soon after carried it in marriage to William Jones, M.D. He died in 1780, leaving two daughters his coheirs, when Mary married Lock Rollinson, esq. of Oxfordshire, and Anne, Thomas Russel, esq ; each of whom, in right of their wives, possessed this manor.

This manor house has an ancient appearance, both within and without ; the doors are arched, and, equally with the windows, cased with ashlar stone ; a large portion of the walls are also composed of flints.

Pimpes court is a manor and ancient seat in this parish, the mansion of which is situated at the southern extremity, near Loose. It was formerly part of the possessions of the family of the Pimpe's, and one of the seats they inhabited, whence it acquired their name. It appears to have been anciently held of the family of the Clare's, earls of Gloucester, of whom, as chief lords of the fee, it was again held by the eminent family of the Pimpe's, although their principal residence appears to have been at Nettlested, not far distant. Richard de Pimpe held it in the reigns of Edward I. and III., as did his descendant, Sir Philip de Pimpe, at the commencement of that of Edward III., who was a man in very high repute.

His widow, Joan, married John Cologne, who, together with her son, Thomas de Pimpe, paid aid for this manor in the 20th of Edward III.; and Philipott says, that Margaret de Cobham, wife of Sir William de Pimpe, died in 1337. William, son of Thomas de Pimpe, of Nettlested, died during his shrievalty, and his son, Reginald, who then resided at this manor, served that office during the remainder of the year. His descendant, of the same name, resided here in the 10th of Henry IV., to whose son, John, two years after, John de Fremingham, of Loose, gave by will his estate there and elsewhere in this county, in tail male, with remainder to Roger Isle, as being the nearest allied to him in blood. His descendant, John Pimpe, esq., kept his shrievalty here in the 2d of Henry VII., and his only daughter and heir, Winifrid, carried this seat in marriage to Sir John Rainsford, who passed it away to Sir Henry Isley; and he, under Edward VI., procured the disgavelment of his lands. Soon after the above period, he seems to have settled this manor on his son, William Isley, esq.; but both being concerned in the rebellion with Sir Thomas Wyatt, they were attainted and executed at Sevenoak, when their lands became forfeited to the crown. Queen Mary, the same year, granted this manor, by the name of Loose, otherwise Pimpes court, to Sir John Baker, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service ; and his descendants, about the end of the reign of Charles I., alienated it to Thomas Ffloyd, esq. of Gore court, in Otham. One of the descendants alienated it to one Browne, in which name it remained till, by the daughter and heir of Thomas Browne, esq., it went in marriage to a Holden, whose son, Richard, of Coptford hall, in Essex, died without issue in 1772, and by will gave it to his widow, and after her decease, to his sister's daughter's son, a minor, by Mr. William Vechell, of Cambridgeshire.

The mansion house of this manor was a modern building, the ruins of the ancient one being still apparent near the present dwelling; the south-west end is still remaining, and, according to tradition, was called the Old chapel. Farther towards the north, is a room, with a very large chimney, containing an oven, which, no doubt, was the old kitchen. The gateway, with a room over it, was taken down many years back, and, from the remains, it appears as if the house and offices, when entire, had formed a quadrangle.

A court-baron is held for this manor.

East Farleigh is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester, and being a *peculiar* of the archbishop is, as such, within the *deanery* of Shoreham. The church, a handsome building, with a spire steeple at the west end, stands at the eastern part of the village, and consists of two aisles and two chancels. That on the south side belongs to Pimpes court, and was repaired, in 1704, by Dr. Griffith Hatley, who had married the widow of Mr. Browne, and possessed the estate in her right. The whole was, through the laudable care of the late vicar, Mr. De la Douespe, newly pewed and handsomely ornamented.

In the rector's chancel are several monuments to commemorate the family of the Amherst's; and, within the altar rails, two for the Goldsmith's. On the north side of this chancel is a very ancient altar tomb for one of the family of the Colepeper's, bearing their shield of arms, *a bend engrailed*, at one corner; it was probably for Sir Thomas Colepeper, who lived in the reign of Edward III., and is reputed to have founded this church. His arms are quartered with those of Joan Hardreshall, his mother, *Argent, a chevron, gules between nine martlets*, and are still remaining in the east window of the south chancel, called Pimpes chancel, wherein also is an ancient plain altar tomb, probably for one of the Colepeper's, or the Pimpe family.

In the 15th of Edward I. the vicarage was valued at ten marks, and in 1589 at £16 8, yearly income. In the reign of Richard II. the church of Ferleghe was estimated at £13 16 8; the vicarage was subsequently estimated in the king's books at £6 16 8, the yearly tenths being 13s. 8d.

John, son of Sir Ralph de Fremingham, of Loose, under Henry IV., gave by will certain lands, therein mentioned, to John de Pympe and his heirs male, to find a chaplain to officiate in the chapel of the Virgin Mary, in this church, then newly built, to celebrate mass, during twenty-four years, for the souls of himself and his wife, the said John Pympe paying to the above chaplain the salary of ten marks yearly.

The vicar of East Farleigh is endowed with the tithes of corn growing on the lands belonging to the parsonage of East Farleigh, and of certain pieces of land, called *garden spots*,

which are dispersed throughout this parish. It was subsequently of the clear yearly value of about 130 guineas.

In 1821 there were 200 dwellings in the parish of East Farleigh; and at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 592, females 551, making a total of 1143 souls.

East Barming, called in ancient records *Bermelinge*, lies the next parish to East Farleigh, on the opposite or northern side of the river Medway.

The parish of East Barming is situated on high ground, declining southward to the valley, through which flows the river Medway, constituting its southern boundary. It is opposite to East Farleigh, and presents a far more agreeable and ornamented appearance; the soil, like the former, is a fertile loam, slightly covering the quarry stone, from beneath which several small springs gush forth, running precipitately in rills into the Medway. It is also enriched with frequent plantations of hops and orchards, the fields being in general large, and surrounded by continued rows of lofty elms and large spreading oaks, which contribute greatly to the beauty of this district. The situation of this as well as the neighbouring parishes, from Maidstone as far as Mereworth, are extremely pleasant, the river Medway meandering its silver current in the valley beneath, throughout the greater part of their extent. The fertility of the soil, the healthiness of the air, and the rich variety of prospect, adorned by a continued range of capital seats, with their parks and plantations, form, altogether, an assemblage of objects in which nature and art appear to have lavished their choicest gifts, in order to form a scene teeming with every thing desirable and conducive to pleasure and profit. The high road from Maidstone to Tunbridge crosses the upper part of East Barming, over a beautiful though small plain, called Barming heath, part of which is in the parish of Maidstone; and a little distance below, is a modern and elegant seat, built by John Whitaker, gent., on whose death it became the property of his nephew, Thomas Whitaker, esq. of Watringbury. Farther on, is the village of Barming, containing a pleasant seat, called the Home-

stall, built, about the year 1720, by Mr. James Allen, whose heirs became entitled to the fee simple of the same; however, by the foreclosure of a mortgage term, the possession became vested in Arthur Harris, esq., who kept his shrievalty here in 1746. His brother, Thomas, also resided here, and, dying unmarried in 1769, gave this seat to Mrs. Mary Dorman, for life, with remainder to Mr. John Mumford, of Sutton at Hone, whom he left heir to the bulk of his fortune. A small distance hence is the seat called Hall place, whence the ground rises to the coppice woods, part of which lie within this parish, and adjoin to a much larger tract northward. About a quarter of a mile on the other side of the road is the church, standing by itself, among a grove of elms; the slight delicate white spire rising above the foliage of the same, presents a delightful feature to the surrounding country. From the above road the village extends southward down the declivity of the hill, almost to the river, over which is a wooden bridge, built at the expense of the commissioners of the navigation, called St. Helen's bridge, owing to its contiguity to that manor. About a mile from the village, close to the eastern boundary of the parish, adjoining that of Maidstone, on the declivity of the hill, leading to East Farleigh bridge, is the parsonage, rebuilt by the rector, the Rev. Mark Noble, who resided there, and, by his judicious management and improvements, rendered this benefice, perhaps, one of the most desirable in the diocese.

Some years ago several Roman urns, pieces of armour, and skeletons, were dug up within the bounds of this parish; the latter, no doubt, being the remains of those who fell in the skirmish between the Royalists and Oliverians at Farleigh bridge, in 1648; while the former serve to exhibit that the Roman highway, being different from the larger one, called Watling street, and directing its course towards Oldborough, in Ightham, led near this place, of which more will be noticed hereafter.

The manor of East Barming was given by William the Conqueror to Richard de Tonebrege, eldest son of Geslebert earl of Brion, in Normandy, son of Jeffry, the natural son of Richard I. of that name, duke of Normandy, whence he bore the name of Richard Fitz-Gilbert, on his coming hither. He was one of the principal persons who landed in England with Duke William, to whom he contributed great assistance at the

memorable battle of Hastings, on which occasion he obtained the crown of this realm. For that service, and his near alliance in blood, he enjoyed great advancements in honour and large possessions both in England and Normandy; among the former he held thirty-eight lordships in Surrey, thirty-five in Essex, three in Cambridgeshire, three in Kent, one in Middlesex, one in Wiltshire, one in Devonshire, and ninety-five in Suffolk; besides thirteen burgages in Ipswich, whereof Clare was one, besides others in different counties; this, among the rest, being entered in the record of Domesday under the general title of his lands.

Richard Fitz-Gilbert, at the latter end of the reign of the Conqueror, was usually styled Richard de Tonebridge, as well from his possessing that town and castle, as owing to his residence there. His descendants took the name of Clare in consequence of being owners of that honour, having been subsequently earls of Clare, Gloucester, and Hertford. Of this family, as chief lords of the fee, Barming was afterwards held in moieties by Fulk Peyforer and Roger de Kent, each of whom held their portion of the honour of Clare.

The former of these moieties, held by Peyforer, seems to have comprised the manor of East Barming, and been afterwards given to the Benedictine nunnery of St. Helen's, in Bishopsgate street, London, whence it acquired the name of St. Helen's, otherwise East Barming manor, by the former of which it is now called. With the above priory this manor continued vested until its dissolution, under Henry VIII., when being surrendered to the king, he granted the estate, then called St. Elen's, to Richard Callehill, to hold *in capite*, by knight's service, who that year sold it to Gabriel Caldham, freemason, of London. He conveyed it, the year following, to Thomas Reve, whose grandson, of the same name, in the 4th of Elizabeth, levied a fine of the same, and then passed it by sale to Mr. Stephen Pearse, who, some years after, alienated it to Sir Robert Brett. On the demise of the latter, without surviving issue, in 1620, this manor passed by will to Robert Lynd, esq., who bore for his arms, *Argent, a cross, engrailed gules;* and he sold it to Sir Oliver Boteler, of Teston, who died in 1772. By his will he devised one moiety of his estates to Mrs. Elizabeth Bouverie, of Chart Sutton; and the other, to Lady Folkstone,

who died in 1782; on which, it passed to her only son, the Hon. Philip Bouverie, who subsequently assumed the name of Pusey, and afterwards possessed the same.

The manor extends its jurisdiction over the whole of this parish, the ancient house, as well as the dovecot, having stood nearly at the foot of the hill, near St. Helen's bridge; both of which have been pulled down for some years. THE OTHER MOIETY OF THE ESTATE OF EAST BARMING, held by John Fitz-Jacob and John de Kent, seems to have afterwards passed into the family of the Fremingham's, as John, son of Sir Ralph de Fremingham, of Loose, died possessed of it about the 12th of Henry IV., and, leaving no issue, by will gave it to certain feoffees. They, in compliance with his bequest, assigned it, the following year, to John Pimpe and his heirs male, for the finding and maintaining two chaplains, one in the monastery of Boxley, and the other in the church of East Farleigh, to celebrate mass for the souls of himself and his wife, as well as their ancestors and relations, therein mentioned. From the family of Pimpe this estate went, in the reign of Henry VIII., to Sir Henry Isley, who, by an Act under Edward VI., procured the disgavelment of his lands. His possessions, as frequently before mentioned, having been confiscated, for treason, to the crown, were granted by Queen Mary to Sir John Baker, to hold *in capite;* from whom they were purchased, under Charles II., by one Golding, who died possessed of the same in 1674. His son, Mr. Henry Golding, gent., about the year 1740, alienated this estate to Nicholas Amherst, gent. of West Barming, who died possessed of it in 1715, and his grandson, John Amherst, esq., subsequently held the same.

HALL PLACE is a reputed manor in this parish, the ancient mansion whereof is situated at a small distance westward of the present seat, being, in appearance, little more than an ordinary cottage, serving as a farm-house to a small parcel of land. It formerly gave both residence and surname to a family written in ancient deeds AT-HALL, which, previous to the end of the reign of Edward III., had alienated their interest in the greater part of the same to one of the Colepeper's, of Preston, in Aylesford, and the remainder to one Clive. This part was by John Clive, about the 7th of Henry IV., conveyed to a Colepeper, who, in the 10th year of that reign, passed away the entire fee of the

estate to Sampson Mascall, whose family was originally of Mascalls, in Brenchley; and in his descendants Hall place continued till the latter end of the reign of Elizabeth. It was then conveyed to one Alchorne, whose ancestors were possessed of Alchorne, in Rotherfield, in Sussex; in which name the fee of this estate remained at the period of the restoration of King Charles II., but the use and profits of the same were made over, for a long series of years, to Mr. Cook, of Stepney. He, in 1656, alienated his interest in the property to Mr. Richard Webb, rector of this parish, who gave it to his grandson, Richard Webb, gent.; and he, in 1726, conveyed it by sale to Mr. Peter Smart, who bore for his arms, *Argent, a chevron between three pheons, sable;* about which period Christopher Smart, the poet, is said to have been born in this parish. Finally, the widow of Mr. Peter Smart and their children passed away their interest therein, about the year 1746, to John Cale, esq., who resided here, and, dying in 1777, was buried in this churchyard, having been a benefactor to the poor of this parish. By will he devised this property, among the rest of his estates in the county, to the heirs of Thomas Prowse, esq., of Axbridge, in Somersetshire; in consequence of which, the two daughters of the latter became entitled to the estate in undivided moieties, and they, in 1781, joined in the sale of the same to John Amherst, esq. of Barnjet, who afterwards possessed this manor.

This parish is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester and *deanery* of Malling. The church, dedicated to St. Margaret, is a small building, consisting of one aisle and a chancel, having an elegant spire steeple. The rector, Mr. Noble, some years back, at his own expense, entirely repaired and ornamented the chancel; he also gave a new altar and pulpit cloth and cushion; when the parishioners followed his example in the repairs and ornamenting the church, on which account, from being one of the most neglected religious edifices, it became equal to most of the neighbouring churches in external and internal appearance.

Walter bishop of Rochester, in the reign of King Stephen, confirmed to the prior and canon of Leeds the patronage of the church of Barming, as it was granted to them by the lords of the soil, and confirmed to that fraternity by their charters.

In the 15th of King Edward I., the church of Barming was

valued at twelve marks, and estimated in the king's books at £12 7 1, the yearly tenths being £1 5 8½. The glebe land belonging to this rectory contains eighty-three acres.

In the last census of the population, taken in 1821, *East* and *West Barming* are not mentioned separately, the calculation being given under the head of *Barming only*, consequently the numbers of dwellings, &c. of the two parishes conjointly, will be found at the close of the ensuing head.

Adjoining to East Barming, westward, lies WEST BARMING, commonly called Barnjet. It is written variously in ancient deeds, some recording it as WEST BARMING and *Barmelinges*, and in others *Baringjet*, otherwise *Paringet*, which seems to be a corruption from *Barmingjet*, as it is spelt in the *Registrum Roffense*. In the *Textus Roffensis* it is called *Bearmlingetes*.

THE PARISH OF WEST BARMING is very small, and the soil much the same as that of East Barming, the high road from Maidstone to Tunbridge continuing through the district, the woods in the upper part extending to within one field of the road; the remainder, however, is more open and free from trees than the former parish. At the western boundary are the plantations and park of Teston house; and on the northern side of the road is the seat of Barnjet, beautifully situated on a spot capable of great improvement; below, is a bridge across the Medway, built by Mr. Amherst; and from the high road is a steep descent of grass and meadow land to the river, the whole commanding a pleasant prospect of the meandering stream, Teston bridge, and the rich scenery adjoining.

This place was once part of the possessions of Odo bishop of Bayeux, under the general title of whose lands it was entered in the record of Domesday.

Upon the disgrace of that prelate it appears to have been granted to the family of the Crevequer's, of which it was held, under Richard I., by a family which derived its surname from the possessions here.

William de Barmelinges died in the 22d of Edward I. possessed of the manor of West Barmelinges, with the hamlets of Pimpes and Ledhoc, holding them of the king *in capite*, as did his son, Robert de Barmelinges, in the 31st year of the same reign. In the 6th of Edward III., John de Fremingham possessed two

parts of this manor, as he also did in the 20th year of the same prince; the other part, before possessed by the Barmelinge's, being alienated elsewhere, as appears from the book for collecting the aid of that year, wherein John de Fremingham and John de Huntingdon, or Hunton, are charged for the knight's fee, which Robert de Barmelinges before held in West Barmelyn of the king, that part held by the latter extending into the parish of Yalding.

John de Fremingham died in the 23d year of the above reign, possessed of his two parts of the above manor, together with the advowson of the church, held of the king *in capite*, which afterwards descended to John, son of Sir Ralph de Fremingham, of Loose, who died in the 12th of Henry IV., leaving no issue. By will he devised this manor and advowson to feoffees, who, the following year, assigned them over to John de Pimpe, and his heirs male, with remainder to Roger Isle.

From the family of the Pimpe's this estate passed in the reign of Henry VIII., to Sir Henry Isley, who procured the disgavelment of his lands; and, being attainted, the estate was granted by Queen Mary to Sir John Baker, of Sissinghurst, who passed it away, with that of East Barming, to a Golding, who died in 1674 possessed of this manor.

His son, Mr. Henry Golding, gent., resided at the manor house of West Barming, or Barnjet, and in 1700 alienated this estate to Captain Nicholas Amherst. He, dying in 1715, it descended to John Amherst, esq., who rebuilt the mansion house, and resided there.

West Barming is within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the *diocese* of Rochester, and *deanery* of Malling. The church of West Barming seems anciently to have been reputed only as a chapel, though subsequently considered a parish church, but appendant and annexed to that of Nettlested. Soon after the above union, it appears to have fallen into ruins, part of the wall having remained in the field westward of Barnjet, till some years back, when Mr. Amherst removed every remaining vestige of the fabric.

In 1821 there were seventy-six dwellings in the parish of West Barming; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 212, females 194, making a total of 406 souls.

Shepherd

Engraved by J. Cooper

MAIDSTONE.

FROM A FIELD ADJOINING THE LONDON ROAD

KENT.

Drawn by G. Shepherd

DESCRIPTION OF MAIDSTONE,
AS IT NOW APPEARS.

HAVING thus terminated our history of the HUNDRED OF MAIDSTONE, as collected from the various sources before us, we shall now proceed to give a correct account of the *modern state of the town and parish of Maidstone.* On referring back, from page 623 to 649 will be found a description of that place as it anciently stood, until within some twenty years of the existing period: we shall now proceed to delineate Maidstone as it appears at the present time. This plan has been adopted in consequence of the extraordinary improvements that have within a very few years been effected in the town alluded to: indeed, so great has been the change, that it would have been difficult in the extreme, when treating of its former state, to have explained with perspicuity, the various modern improvements. Thus circumstanced, we conceived a distinct view of the modern appearance of this place preferable, and, in order that no confusion might arise in placing the same immediately after the previous delineation, we have thus thought fit to insert it at the close of the description of the hundred.

We shall commence with the central part of Maidstone, where, until recently, stood the market-house for butcher's meat, fish, and greengrocery, while a little below was the corn-market, both now removed, the area being highly convenient for the general traffic of this town.

HIGH STREET, which is spacious, presents on the right a noble pile of architecture, the roof being supported by several magnificent columns of the Ionic order, resting upon arches, the lower part designed for the corn-market; adjoining which are elegant and spacious apartments, occupied as offices for the fire and life insurance companies. The entrance is by a grand arch of ample span, leading to the New Mitre tavern, a commodious and appropriate inn for men of business, and the entertainment of convivial parties; the room over the corn-market,

which is spacious and magnificent, being an appendage to the tavern.

The new Market is contiguous, consisting of an arrangement of stalls or compartments; the roofings are supported by rows of plain columns, appropriated for the occupation of poulterers, butchers, fishmongers, greengrocers, and fruiterers; the two first attend only on the Saturday, being market-day, and the three latter every day in the week, while the corn-market, now held in the poulterer's compartment, takes place on the Thursday. The shambles, that occupied the end of Middle row, and were so long an unsightly pile, are now removed, thus admitting more light to the buildings opposite, on either side. A little below was the butter-market, which has been recently removed, as also a box that contained the weigh-bridge apparatus, the same being now placed within the conduit hard by, thus rendering the street much more commodious. On the right, at the lower end, next the river, lies Fair Meadow, which, within the last three or four years, has been Mac-adamized, when a row of stately elms was also felled, and strong railings put up, to which the horses are now attached; so that by the removal of the trees, great additional light has been thrown into the houses adjacent. Before the last-mentioned improvements, the stalls were permitted to stand up High street, whereas the business of the fair is now confined within the meadow. At the foot of the bridge is a new erected, low, stone building, for the confinement of vagrants, and those who commit petty offences, until they are committed to the *Mayor's prison*, which is behind the workhouse, in Knight Rider's street. On the Westborough side of the bridge are several neat new-built residences. The Tunbridge road, which turns to the left from the bridge, has within these few years been much improved, its course being directed more to the right, while, from a narrow miry, and circuitous lane, it has become a spacious and commodious road. This terminates at the Bower, at the entrance of which is a handsome and commodious dwelling, on an eminence, with suitable appurtenances, commanding a delightful view over the town and adjacent country. Farther on are fifteen cottages, all newly built, as well as several more handsome houses up the road. Within a mile and a half is Barming heath, on which is proceeding the foundation of a county asylum for

Drawn by Geo. Shepherd.

Engraved by H. Adlard.

THE NEW [illegible]SIONS HOUSE, MAIDSTONE.

KENT.

Published 1829. by Geo. Virtue, 26, Ivy Lane.

lunatics, which, when completed, will be of very extensive dimensions.

On the London road, about 300 yards from the foot of the bridge, are several new excellent houses, called Rocky hill, which particularly adorn the entrance into the town; there is also a new, but small and neat, building over the spring, which supplies the town with water by means of the conduits.

WEEK STREET has been recently much improved by the erection of several excellent houses, some of which have commodious shops, while those of antique date have been modernised. At the end of the street is the New Inn, a handsome and spacious building, near the site of which was formerly a ruinous pile, consisting of mean tenements, with a piece of ill-fenced garden-ground, the whole now open and Mac-adamized. Opposite to the above inn is Parliament street, at the bottom of which, branching out on either side, are between thirty and forty newly-built cottages, and a little farther on is Well row, consisting of about twenty residences. In the direction of Rochester, on the right, are twenty more larger dwellings, all of no long standing. Near the barracks is a respectable butcher's house and shop, and, opposite the Depôt, the lately erected County assembly-rooms, a chaste and plain building of brick, which uniformly attracts the attention of the traveller. This part of the town has been particularly altered in appearance within the last twenty years.

THE NEW SESSIONS HOUSE, contiguous to this spot, is a noble pile of architecture, and the new County prison, in the background, both previously mentioned, though conveying melancholy ideas to the mind, give an awful cast to the scenery. Opposite, stand several small but neat houses, and a low built cottage, occupied by a fancy mason, who displays an ample assortment of ornamental articles. On the left, towards Rochester, stands the Independent chapel, erected in 1822, displaying a plain mass of architecture, being calculated to contain about 800 persons.

Faith street, turning out of the centre of the above, and leading to the river, was much improved at no very distant period, particularly towards the end, having been much raised, and a stone wall built on the right, ten or twelve feet in altitude, being particularly convenient for the houses on that side. The wharf has also been raised, which is defended by a rampart of

stone, affording great facility in the lading and unlading the barges freighted with corn, coals, and timber. On the right, by the river side, a little higher up, have been built several neat tradesmen's houses and cottages, at the end of which is another wharf, particularly convenient for the trade of the town.

Stone street presents nothing new worthy of notice, except that on its entrance from the Weald of Kent, which until these few years past was narrow and incommodious, it has been rendered spacious, and free from all obstructions, that alteration having been effected by taking down two houses, whereby the road was much widened.

On the right of this street, passing from the centre of the town, are several new streets, called George, Brunswick, and Orchard streets, consisting of about 300 houses, and a good inn, the whole of modern construction. Mote road turns out of the middle of Stone street, wherein on the left stands Providence chapel, for the use of the high Calvinists, lately enlarged and newly fronted, calculated to contain about 300 persons; the structure is neat and plain. A little farther on about sixty new buildings have been raised, two of which are very respectable; the ground they occupy being denominated Doctor's field. They are ranged in rows, two in particular, fronting the Mote road, having a very neat appearance. These houses have small garden courts in front, one being called Providence row, and the other Providence place. Romney place, leading out of Stone street, contains twenty dwellings, inhabited by private families; the entrance to this place being through handsome iron gates. Paradise row consists of houses on a larger scale, having equally their garden courts in front, there being seven rows. Opposite Mote road is Knight Rider's street, that runs towards the old church, on the east side of which is the national school, conducted on Bell's system; and, contiguous, a new burial-ground, fenced in, and entered by iron gates.

King Street was formerly so very narrow and incommodious at its entrance, that waggons laden with hay and straw could not pass without brushing either side. The first improvement here was rounding the angle on the right, while, more recently, the projecting houses were taken down, which left a miserable display of the back parts of decayed tenements. The nuisance alluded to, however, was obviated last summer, when

the rubbish was cleared away, and a handsome commodious ironmonger's house and shop erected, so that the entrance of this street is now an additional beauty to the centre of Maidstone. A little higher up, on the right, is the Baptist chapel, a neat fabric, erected in 1821, capable of containing about 400 individuals. On the same side of the street, higher up, is Ebenezer passage, at the termination of which are fifty cottages, including those in the passage; added to which, there are four good houses, called Ebenezer place, all built within the last eight years. On the site of the old gaol seven good houses are erected, with commodious shops; and, at the top of this street, where formerly stood several mean cottages, at the end of a miry lane, is now a spacious road, leading to Ashford; into which, on the right hand, just out of the town, is a new cut formed from Mote road, very convenient for the inhabitants of that part of Maidstone.

At the entrance of the main road, on the left, is Clarendon place, inhabited by independent families, and a little farther on are several good and substantial houses, upon a larger scale, with others very neat and elegant. Not far removed are some new and well-built houses, with gardens in front; so that what before was rugged and waste, now wears the aspect of comfort and neatness. Immediately at the upper end of the street is a new road, turned upon a sharp angle, leading to Sittingbourne, &c., at the entrance of which, on the left, are some elegant double-built houses, for the occupation of two families each, with two others detached, and several neat cottages, all commanding an open and extensive view of the adjacent country, and the Mote.

In the centre of this street is a new and wide opening, leading directly to the new church, an unornamented and substantial pile of architecture, surmounted by a spire, with a gilt cast-iron cross on the summit; the church is formed to contain about 2000 persons. The pulpit and desk are placed after the modern taste, detached from each other; the distance of the width of the middle aisle being equal in height, while in the gallery opposite, is a fine-toned organ.

Union street, hitherto unnoticed by any historian, is spacious, containing several well-built houses, one side having been recently erected. This street opens out of Week street, and leads into the Sittingbourne road, before mentioned.

The new METHODIST CHAPEL stands about the middle of the street, on the left, having been built in 1823. It is large and commodious, being calculated to contain a congregation of 1400 persons, and seats for 1100. There is a handsome organ placed behind the pulpit.

The building is in the modern taste, and you ascend to the porch by several steps, the windows and pulpit, as well as the upper part of the front, being ornamented in the Gothic style. The burial-grounds are in front and rear of the chapel, while, at the end of the latter, is a recently erected, neat, and commodious dwelling for the superintendent preacher and his family. At the back of the chapel is a cottage for the attendant hired to clean it, adjoining which is a building appropriated for the Sunday schools, for male and female children, calculated to contain about 500 pupils; the whole presenting an assemblage of buildings, comprising every requisite for religious purposes. At the upper part of the street are twenty new-built cottages, and on the left, opposite the Union Flag, whence the street derives its name, is Cary street, containing twenty houses on either side, the top of which is School street, consisting of twenty houses, with detached sheds for various purposes, while at one corner is the British school, that contains 300 children, with a house for the master and his family adjoining. The above leads into Wheeler street, containing eighty houses, some of which are detached, the foundations of several more being already laid. This runs out of the upper part of Union street, whereof one corner consists of a commodious grocer's house and shop. A little higher up, on the left-hand side, is the Friends' Meeting-house, which contains about 200 persons of that persuasion. It is a sequestered spot, concealed from public view by a wall and a few trees, and in every respect figurative of the peaceful disposition of its frequenters.

This street leads to Penenden heath, a spot before described, and noted for executions and elections, whereon stands the Shire house, a mean pitiful building, having more the appearance of a shed, than used for the purposes to which it is appropriated.

About the middle of this street are several commodious houses, denominated Holland terrace, near which are some cottages called Well row, and at the bottom of the road, round the

north angle of the gaol wall, and at the back of the Sandling road, are about fifty more cottages lately built. A little below Holland terrace, on the opposite side, in Wheeler street, is Lucern street, containing fifteen cottages. Opposite the British School is Brewer's street, running into Week street, which forms a cross road; wherein are fifteen or sixteen neat cottages, lying in a convenient direction to the new streets above described; and from the upper part are about thirty cottages, forming a new street towards the gaol. A very considerable improvement has been made in this town, in consequence of its being lighted by gas, which renders the High street very elegant at night. The lamps in that street are affixed to iron pillars.

At the commencement of the present winter, a curious phenomenon occurred in the gas-lights, which rose and sunk alternately during the evening, creating infinite surprise among the number of country and town's people, as it happened on Saturday, the general market-day. This circumstance originated in the main pipe admitting water, it being then a complete flood, so that the element ran gradually up the different tubes, first affecting those lights nearest the gas-house, and then communicating to others more removed, until the whole were totally extinguished.

At Loose, two miles and a half distant, *a new road* is forming, in order to avoid two steep and dangerous hills rising from that village. It is about a quarter of a mile in length; a bridge being erected, forty feet in height and about the same width in the span, which, when finished, during the ensuing summer, will prove a great addition to the picturesque view of the surrounding scenery.

On Wednesday, the 7th of August, 1765, at about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, the prisoners in Maidstone gaol, then under sentence of death, were admitted to come up in the hall or kitchen, to attend Divine Service, which was administered by the Rev. John Denne; during which time, Simon Pingano and Andrew Benevenuto, two Genoese, seized the firearms and cutlasses, and murdered John Stevens and John Fletcher, and made themselves masters of the gaol. It was with great difficulty Mr. Denne was dug out from under the wall.

They cut up part of the lead pump to make slugs, and in the evening decamped from the gaol, to the number of about

fifteen, all armed; and before military aid could be procured they proceeded to Tovill, and reached a wood, which they made their rendezvous, in the hamlet of Plextool, commonly called *Rove Wood.* The two Genoese above mentioned were not taken alive, but fought till they fell. When military assistance had arrived and surrounded the wood, they were nearly all secured, while others resigned themselves up; after which, a Special Assize was held, and the remainder of the criminals executed. It was somewhat singular, that those weapons had always hung up in the hall from the first erection of the building in 1746 till 1765, a space of nineteen years, and no depredation had been previously committed: since that time, however, they have been removed.

On the 1st of June, 1798, O'Coigley, O'Connor, Binns, Allen, and Leary, were tried at Maidstone Special Assizes for high treason; and on the 7th of June, O'Coigley was executed as a traitor on Penenden heath.

The following outlines of the review, which took place at the Mote, near Maidstone, the seat of the earl of Romney, on Thursday, the 5th of August, 1799, we insert for the gratification of our readers:

The king having signified his intention of reviewing the corps of yeomen cavalry and volunteer infantry, raised by the men of Kent, in his lordship's park; General Sir Charles Grey, commander of the southern district, had the ordering of the same.

The cavalry formed in two corps, under Sir Robert Lawrie, bart.

The infantry, in six battalions, under the Hon. Lieutenant General Fox.

In the morning, the royal standard was hoisted on the town-hall and the church, and an elegant triumphal arch erected across the street through which the king had to pass, by the late F. Stacey, esq.

On the rising ground in the back lawn of Lord Romney's house, was erected an elegant marquee, decorated with festoons, wreaths, &c. for the royal visitors to dine in; and, near the same, another for the ministers of state.

Temporary tables, &c. were placed contiguous to the spot, in two divisions, close to each other, in sight of the royal marquee, for the reception of the volunteers.

On those tables ninety-one in number were viands, wine, &c. for the entertainment of upwards of 6000 volunteers. The length of the tables, added together, made 13,333 yards; and on the other side of the house was a small train of artillery encamped, with tents, &c.

About five o'clock in the morning the companies began to move on the ground, and by nine the whole was occupied. About ten o'clock the Stadtholder appeared, and marched to the royal tent, where he waited the arrival of the royal family; soon after which appeared the Duke of York, attended by Sir Charles Grey, Sir Robert Lawrie, General Fox, and many of the nobility; among whom were the Lord Chancellor, and Messrs. Pitt, Dundas, and Windham, on horseback.

The royal family set off from Kew at five o'clock in the morning, took breakfast at Earl Camden's, at Sevenoaks, and arrived at the Mote about twelve.

His Majesty rode to the ground on his charger, attended by the Prince of Wales, and Dukes of Cumberland and Gloucester: the Queen, with the Princesses Augusta and Elizabeth, who were attended by Lady Harrington, in her majesty's carriage, drove directly to the royal marquee, where they decorated themselves with oak-boughs, &c. A royal salute was fired on the king's coming upon the ground, after which his majesty took his station where the troops were designed to pass, attended by the royal dukes, generals, and many noblemen.

The review, which had been arranged by General Sir Charles Grey, being concluded, his majesty returned to the royal marquee, where he held a levee of his state officers, and then received a loyal address from the corporation of Maidstone; on which occasion the honour of knighthood was conferred on Samuel Chambers, esq., the high sheriff of the county.

A sumptuous dinner was then served up for the royal family, which took place at three o'clock; the company, consisting of their Majesties, the two Princesses, the Dukes of York, Cumberland, and Gloucester, the Stadtholder, &c.; Lady Harrington, lady in waiting; with Lord Romney, his son Viscount Marsham, and his three daughters. In the next marquee were the Ministers of State, &c.

After dinner, the volunteers drank the healths of the King,

Queen, Duke of York, &c. When the royal family partook of coffee, &c. at Lord Romney's house; and at six o'clock set off for Kew, highly gratified on finding the loyal men of Kent so much attached to their sovereign and his illustrious family.

To give the reader an idea of the dinner served up, the principal dishes were,

60 Lambs in quarters, making 240 dishes.	220 Dishes of boiled Beef.
	220 Dishes of roast Beef.
700 Fowls, 3 in a dish.	220 Meat Pies.
300 Hams.	220 Fruit Pies.
300 Tongues.	220 Joints of roast Veal.

With 7 Pipes of Wine, and 16 Butts of Beer, to supply the tables.

Neither did his lordship's benevolence end here, as upwards of 600 poor families, in the town and neighbourhood, were regailed with the fragments left of this copious repast.

The strength of the volunteers returned on that occasion, amounted to 5721 men, but only 5228 appeared on the ground.

Before his Majesty left the park, he gave general orders to the Commander in Chief, Mr. Secretary Dundas, and the Lord Warden, &c. to convey to the Lord Lieutenant his warmest thanks and approbation; and likewise to the officers of the Kentish Volunteers.

His Majesty liberated the insolvent debtors at the same time, out of his gaol at Maidstone.

On the 6th of August, the freedom of the city of Canterbury was presented to Lord Romney.

On the 3d of September, at a numerous meeting, at Sittingbourne, of the officers, &c. of the Kent volunteers, it was resolved unanimously, that a pavilion should be raised on the spot where the royal marquee had stood in the park, to commemorate this glorious event; and accordingly a structure was erected, of the following dimensions:

The building is circular, of Portland stone, thirty-feet high, and twenty-six feet six inches in diameter, having a dome, supported by nine columns, the order of which is an exact copy of the Doric portico at Athens.

The inscription round is as follows: "This Pavilion was

erected by the Volunteers of Kent, as a tribute of respect to the Earl of Romney, Lord Lieutenant, MDCCCI."

His Majesty visited this town on the 4th of November, 1778, when he received a loyal address from the Corporation, and conferred the honour of knighthood on William Bishop, esq., one of the jurats of this Corporation.

We have previously observed, in more instances than one, that Archbishop Courtenay was supposed to have been interred at Canterbury, although a cenotaph was erected to his memory in the great chancel of the church of Maidstone. This point, which had been contested by several writers, was finally set at rest about thirty years back, at which period several gentlemen obtained permission of the officiating minister to open the tomb in the great chancel of Maidstone church, and after removing the stone, being a kind of blue slate, they began to dig until about six feet deep, when, to their satisfaction, they discovered the bones of the devout and learned prelate, apparently sound, every joint being in its proper place, the skeleton measuring in length six feet, and the teeth remaining entire: however, when exposed to the operation of the air, it began to diminish, so that it appeared the general opinion of the individuals assembled upon this occasion, (among whom were the Rev. Messrs. Denne, Cherry, Reeve, &c.) that this high-born and sanctified dignitary had been interred in his robes, and without any coffin, agreeable to the instructions contained in his own will.

CHRONOLOGY

OF

REMARKABLE EVENTS RELATING TO MAIDSTONE.

A. D.

86 A great inundation of the river Medway, and several inhabitants of Maidstone were drowned.

666 Egbert, first king of Kent, began to reign; who basely murdered Etheldred and Ethelbert, his two nephews, and cast their dead bodies into the Medway.

808 A large seahorse was taken in the Medway at Maidstone.

824 A large whale was taken in the Medway.

861 Great inundation of the Medway: several cattle drowned.

909 A whale and two porpusses taken in the Medway.

1056 A whale, thirty-four feet long, was taken in the Medway, below Maidstone.

1114 A failure of water in the Medway, and the navigation stopped; so that people passed over on foot. A similar event took place in the Thames, opposite the Tower, October 10th.

1216 Stowe says: 1216, a monster appeared in this town struck with lightning, which could not be approached by reason of the disagreeable smell it exhaled.

1261 A market first granted to this town.

1327 Maidstone bridge over the Medway finished.

1348 Maidstone palace begun.

1354 The staple of woollen manufactories first removed from Flanders to this town.

1368 A ton of wine sold for 13s. 4d.

1381 Wat Tyler and the rebels broke open the County prison.

1390 Maidstone church enlarged, and the present chancel built by Archbishop Courtney.

1391 About this time Archbishop Courtney founded the college.

1396 Archbishop Courtney died, July 28th.

1438 Archbishop Chichele entertained King Henry VI. at his palace, March 21st.

A.D.

1453 Archbishop John Stafford died, at the palace at Maidstone.
1486 Archbishop Morton beautified the palace.
1495 The Exchequer standard committed to this town.
1546 The college surrendered into the king's hands.
1549 Maidstone church plundered of its vestments.
1549 Edward VI. granted the palace of Maidstone to Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington castle.
1549 Maidstone first incorporated, July 4th, Richard Heley being then mayor.
1553 Sir Thomas Wyatt executed, at Sevenoaks, for rebellion. Charter of Maidstone forfeited.
1555 Seven men and women burnt in the meadow for religious opinions.
1560 The second charter granted to the town, December 4th, William Green, esq. being then mayor.
1568 The Walloons first settled in Maidstone, who established the thread manufactory.
1604 The third charter granted to Maidstone, with further privileges, &c., Edward Maplesden, esq. being mayor, December 31st.
1619 The fourth charter granted to the town, with additions, &c., Walter Fisher, esq. being mayor.
1620 Maidstone bridge repaired by an assessment on the town and parish.
1630 Weever visited Maidstone church, and inspected the funeral monuments.
1648 Maidstone taken by the Parliamentary forces, June 2d.
1649 No assizes held at Maidstone for two years, there having been no prisoners.
1652 Several old women tried at the assizes, natives of Swemscomb, as witches, August 2d.
1682 An alteration and a fifth charter granted to this town, Robert Saunders, esq. then mayor.
1689 Dr. Wright, an Anabaptist preacher, chosen mayor, and the jurats dissenters.
1701 The rights of the freemen confirmed by Parliament, February 7th.
1702 The above rights confirmed again, December 8th.

A. D.

1720 The workhouse built, at the sole expense of Thomas Bliss, esq.

1730 The two large galleries erected, and the body of the church new pewed.

1736 The old gaol where the fish-market stood, petitioned to be taken down.

1740 Maidstone church spire burnt down by lightning, November 2d.

1746 The County gaol finished.

1748 The sixth and present charter granted, Edward Hunter, esq. being mayor.

1751 A cattle-market granted to the town by letters patent.

1753 William Shipley, esq., a native of Maidstone, flourished, whose public spirit gave rise to the foundation of the society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce.

1756 Hanoverian camp on Coxheath, consisting of 12,000 men.

1763 A great hail-storm at Maidstone, August 19th.

1764 The Court hall finished.

1765 Prisoners broke out of the County gaol, and murdered the turnkey, August 7th.

1776 The County Bridewell built.
The Debtors' gaol finished.

1778 His late majesty George III. passed through Maidstone after reviewing the troops on Coxheath.

1791 An Act passed for paving and improving the town.

1794 The pavement finished.

1797 The royal cavalry barracks finished.

1799 A royal review held in the Mote park, August 1st.

1809 New jury room built next the Court hall.

Since the above period, our modern account of the Town of Maidstone records every occurrence that has taken place.

END OF VOL. III.

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INDEX TO VOL. III.

page

Abercorn, James, first earl . 57, 49
Acton, estate of . . 171
Addington, parish of . . 617
———, church of . . 620
Ady, Peter, esq. . . 35
Aislabie, Rawson, esq. . . 287
Albans, St., Duchess of . 223
———, or Wimplingbury, manor of 460
Alborough, earl of . . 201
Albemarle, earl of . . 19
Alehorne, John . . 12
Aldington, formerly a distinct parish . . . 116
——— Cobham, or East court ib.
——— court . . 113
——— Septvans . . 117
——— West court . . ib.
Aldone, Thomas de . . 92
Allards, estate of . . 245
Allard, Gervas . . ib.
Allington, parish of . . 574
———, castle of . . ib.
———, manor of . . 567
———, church of . . 577
Alianora, king John's sister . 25
Alianore, countess . . ib.
Almnery green . . 20
Altar cloth at Hollingbourne church curiously wrought . 88
Apulton, district of . . 273
Aquila, Gilbert de . . 399

page

Armorial bearings of the Cliffords, the Isleys, the Fremingham, Colepepers, the Savages, and the Bournes . 27
Ashbee, John . . . 176
Ashurst, parish of . . 341
———, manor of . . ib.
———, church of . . 343
Aske, Thomas . . . 111
Astrys, family of . . 16
Alva, duke d' . . . 394
Atwater, Robert . . 67
Aylesford . . . 554
———, church of . . 573
———, battle fought at . 558
———, earl of . . 153
Amhurst, Nicholas . . 481
Ancaster, dukes of . . 106
Argall, Thomas . . 31
Arundel, archbishop . . 93
Ashden, manor of . . 61
Ashway, family of . . 14
Auberville, family of . . 145
Aucher, arms of . . 122
———, Anthony . . 4
———, Henry, esq. . . 122
Audley, Hugh . . 366
Austens, family of . . 24
———, Edward, esq. . 247, 148
———, Peter . . . 7
Austin, Motley . . 206
———, —— Francis . . 242

page

Babb, Mr. . . . 202
Badlesmere, lord . . 92
———, lady . . 91
———, Bartholomew de, 91,495
Badmonden, manor of . . 242
Badsell, manor of . . 328
Baldwin, William . . 74
———, esq. . 113, 77
Baker, Sir John . 160, 252
Barden, manor of . . 375
———, family of . . ib.
Bargrave, family of . . 301
———, Isaac . . 300
Barham, family of . . 169
Barkley, hundred of . . 244
Barlings, manor of . . 176
Barnard, lord . . . 85
Barnefield, Great, hundred of . 251
Barnes place, estate of . . 353
——— garden . . . 101
Barnett, Valentine . . 83
Barnham, Sir Francis . . 11
Barnham, Mr. Benedict . 76
———, Stephen . . 84
———, arms of . . 85
———, Sir Martin . . 86
——— Francis . . ib.
Barson, parish of . . 280
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 283
Barons place . . . 518
Barton, Thomas . . 221
———, John . . . 349
Barville, Great and Little, two estates of . . . 287
Barty, lands of . . . 106
Bathurst, family of . 208, 209
———, name of . . 240
———, Richard . . 241
Battle hall . . 101
Bayham, abbey of . . 331
Baynden, seat of . . 237
Beamonston, manor of . . 156
———, family of . . 157
Beaufitz, ancient family of . 171
Bedeford, John . . 133
Bedford, John, duke of . 417
Bedgebury, seat of . . 209
———, family of . . ib.
Belcher, family of . . 35
———, Stringer . . 35
———, rector . 128
———, Samuel . . 60
———, William, esq. . 143
Belemeyns, Sir John . . 415

page

Belknap, Edward . . 44
Bendeville, family of . . 502
Bending, Peter de . . 155
Benestede, manor of . . 486
———, John de . . ib.
Bergenhausen, countess of . 112
Berham, John de . . 477
Berkley, lord Maurice . . 71
———, Sir Maurice . . 39
Bersted, parish of . . 105
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 108
Bertie, noble family of . . 106
Bertyn, Simon . . . 108
Best, George . . . 7
———, esq. . 58, 61
——, Thomas . . 7, 50
———, esq. . . 61
——, James, esq. . . 49
——, Mawdestley, esq. . ib.
Betenham, family of . . 188
Bethlehem hospital, London . 283
Betshanger, parish of . . 265
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 267
Bewle, stream of . . 233
Bewley, manor of . . 50
Bicknor, parish of . . 139
——, church of, and remote antiquity of . . . 141
——, family of . . 139
Bidborough, parish of . . 339
———, church of . . 340
Biddenden, parish of . . 244
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 249
——— place . . . 244
——— house . . 245
———, singular custom at . 249
Bigons, or Digons . . 638
Binbury wood, in Thurnham parish . . . 114
Birling, parish of . . 586
———, church of . . 594
——— place . . . 587
Black pitts, manor of . . 461
—— canons, priory of, at Cowden 399
Blean, gallows at . . 92
Blechenden, manor of . . 7
Bayhall, manor of . . 332
Boardfield, hamlet of . . 124
———, church of, a ruin . ib.
———, chapel of . . ib.
Bocton, manor of . . 169

	page
Boddenden, family of	246
Bokingfold, manor of	206, 495
Boleyn, queen Anne	395
Boniface, archbishop	645
Bonyers, lands of	78
Bone, family of	410
—— place, seat of	ib.
Boreman, John	6
Borough green, hamlet of	531
——— court	580
———, family of	405
———, Sir Edward	67, 124
———, lord	117
———, arms of	ib.
Bosworth, Miss	239
Botelers, family of	67
———, Thomas	303
———, Richard, esq.	319
———, Sir Philip	478
———, William, esq.	297
Botley, Sir Thomas	419
Boughton Malherb, parish of	41
———, family of	ib.
———, church of, and monuments in	51
——— place	46
———, mansion of	9
———, remains of	42
——— Monchensie, parish of	8
——— green, hamlet of	9
——— quarries	ib.
——— mount, seat of	12
Bounds, New, or Little, seat of	382
Bourchier, Sir Thomas	93
Bourne, John de	10
Bouverie, Mrs. Elizabeth,	16, 28, 473, 479
Boycot, manor of	39
———, family of	ib.
Boyton, manor of	32
Boxley, parish of	649
———, village of	ib.
——— abbey	651
———, Rood of Grace at	ib.
Boys, Samuel, esq.	254
——, William	305
———, esq.	285
——, Mr.	310
Bradbourn, park of	604
Brambles, Small, manor of	242
Brampton, manor of	578
Brander, Mrs.	107
Brandescombe mill	98
Bredhurst, parish of	150
———, manor of	151
Brewbre, Nicholas	511
Brewer, family of	482
Brenchley, parish of	217
———, church of	224
———, family of	222
Brent, family of	167
Brimsdale, farm of	276
Briscoe, John	12
Brising, or Brishing, manor of	16
Brissinges, Thomas de	ib.
Broad oak, seat of	218
Brockhull, family of	178
———, Henry	76, 117
———, esq.	84
———, Sir William	168
———, Thomas	317
Brockman, William	126
Broke, Dionia Atte	502
Bromfield, parish of	104
———, William de	105
Broxcombe, Adam de	175
Brydges, Timewell, esq.	125
———, Edward, esq.	ib.
Buckhurst, Richard	170
Buckingham, duke of,	333, 360, 492
Buckland, farm of	314
Bucler, Walter	193
Budds, hamlet of	546
Buffkin, Lewin	16, 112
———, Ralph	112
———, esq.	17
Bulleyn, Geoffry	392
Bunce's court	128
——— chancel	126
———, family of	61, 128
———, John	126
———, Sir James	128
———, Simon	ib.
Burges, Robert	342, 352
Burgh, lord Thomas	406
Burgherst, Robert de	407
Burgershe, Sir Bartholomew	92
Burham, parish of	552
Burhaise, church of	554
———, priory of	555
Burleigh, manor of	170
Burley, Sir Simon de	15
Burston, manor of	487
———, John de	ib.
Bushell, John	315
Butler, earl of Ormond	37
Butsole, an ancient burial ground near	298
Buttery, Robert, esq.	223

page

Cage, Lewis, esq. . 85
——, Richard, esq. . 107
——, John, esq. . 120
Calcraft, John, esq. . 101, 103
Calehill, hundred of . 154
———, manor of . 179
Calverley, seat of . 383
Camden, Clarinceux at arms . 21
———, earl of . 232
Canons court, manor of . 468
Canterbury, archbishop of . 273
Capel, parish of . 354
——, church of . 355
——, family of . 669
Capgrave, John de . 495
Carter, George . 159
Carews court . 596
Cartier, John . 212
———, esq. . 211
Castwisell, estate of . 245
Catigern, burial place of . 556
Catts place, manor of . 223
Catt, Hugh de . 223
Cavendish, Charles lord Mansfield . 123
Causton, Hugh de . 351
———s, manor of . ib.
Cecil, lord Burleigh . 56
Cenulf, king of Mercia . 55
Chafford place, manor of . 433
Chalfhunt, Sir Henry . 133
Chambers, Abraham, esq. . 140
Chambre, Robert . 102
Champneys, Justinian . 6
———, Henry Burt . 319
Chapel, remarkable one in the manor house of Sore . 534
Chapman, William . 160
Charing, parish of . 162
———, heath of . 163
———, palace of . ib.
——— supposed a Roman station . 164
——— cross, legend of . ib.
———, church of, and monuments in . 172
———, chapel of, burnt down . 175
Charlton, George . 5
Charlotte, queen . 98
Chart Sutton, parish of . 17
———, vineyards at . 18
—— corner . 21
——, church of, burnt by lightning . 23
—— Sutton . 29

page

Chartway street . 30
Chauncey, Sir Henry . 62
Chawn, George le . 339
Chegworth, mill at . 35
Cheney's court, manor of . 22
Cheney, Sir Thomas . 22, 125, 131
———, William de . 22
———, lord . 126
———, Henry lord . 152
Cherringes, family of . 164
Chesterfield, earl of . 45, 115, 199
Cheveney manor and mansion . 198
———, family of . ib.
Chevene house . 199
Chidingstone, parish of . 403
———, Cobham manor of . 404
——— Burghersh . 407
———, church of, and monuments in . 412
Child, Robert . 82
Children, George, esq. . 359
———, John, esq. . 438
Chillenden, parish of . 295
———, church of . 296
———, family of . 295
———, John de . ib.
Chillington . 641
Chilson, manor of . 48
Chilwell, Jonathan . 352
Chingley, manor and estate of . 212
Chitcroft, family of . 175
Chittendens, family of, eminent clothiers . 254
Cistertian monastery first founded at Waverly . 653
——— abbey, Boxley . 212
Clanrickarde, earl of . 361
Clare, noble family of . 218
——, Richard de . 383
Clenkard, archbishop . 28
Cleres, St., or West Aldham . 538
Clerke, Henry, esq. . 38
———, Gilbert, esq. . 39
Cleves, lady Anne, of . 393
Clifford, William, esq. . 27
Clinton, William de . 15
———, earl of Huntingdon . 48
Clitherows, family of . 315
Cobham, family of . 66, 124
———, Reginald lord . 66, 400
——— de, 116, 391, 411
———, John de . 116, 404
———, Henry de . 116
———, lord . 93, 221

page

Cock, Eugenius . . . 126
Codd, family of . . . 469
Coigley, O'Connor, Birms, Allen, and Leary, tried for treason, at Maidstone . . . 692
Cole, John, esq., 199, 200, 208, 241, 465
Colebridge, manor of . . 47
——— castle . 42, 48
Colepepers, eminent family of, 7, 83, 210, 332, 335, 438, 567
———, Thomas, esq. . 4
———, 6, 92, 120, 200, 213, 397
———, Sir Thomas, 7, 58, 82, 83, 92, 94, 95, 117
———, lord Thomas . 76
———, Sir William . 7
———, William and Thomas, David Polhill, and Justinian Chamneys, committed to the gatehouse . . 57
———, William . . 82
———, Walter . 83, 220
———, Francis, 76, 82, 86, 100
———, Sir John . . 83
——— Richard . 506
———, Cheney, esq. . 86
———, Henry Fairfax . 96
———, John Spencer, 82, 84, 96
———, lords of . . 83
———, lord baron Thoresway 94
———, armorial bearings of 95
College at Maidstone . . 645
Cologne, family of . . 107
Columbels, Ranulf de . . 471
Columbers, Philip de . . 159
Colyear, Sir David . . 4
Colyn, Richard . . 111
Comborne, estate of . . 207
Combwell, manor of . . 213
Conghurst, manor of . . 256
Constable, Sir John . . 76
Cosgrave, family of . . 220
Corbie, family of . . 199
———, Robert . . . 43
———, esq. . . 115
Corpus Christi, fraternity of, at Maidstone . . . 648
Cosenton, manor of . . 566
——— house . . 558
———, family of . . 566
Cosin, family of . . 401
Cottonian library . . 231

page

Courthope, manor of . . 240
Court Lodge, farm of . . 661
Courteney, archbishop . . 646
———, interment of . . . 695
Causemaker, colonel . . 320
Coverts, family of . . 102
Covert, William, esq. . . 100
Cowden, parish of . . 398
———, manor of . . 399
———, furnace of . . ib.
———, church of . . 402
Cowsted, manor of . . 147
———, family of . . ib.
Coxheath . . . 9
———, camp at . . 98
Cranmer, Robert, esq. . . 40
Cressi, family of . . 77
——, Hugh de . . . 71
——, Stephen de . . ib.
Crevequer, eminent family of, 90, 105, 228, 311
———, Robert . . 479
———, founder of Leeds castle . . . ib.
———, de . 97, 102
———, Hamo de . 90, 301, 475
———, Daniel de . . 98
———s interred at Leeds priory 99
Crickett, Richard . . 274
Criol, eminent family of . 219
——, Nicholas de . . 145
——s, manor of . . 219
Crispe, Richard, gent. . . 60
Crombwell, family of . . 133
———, John de . . ib.
Crombury, manor of . . 350
Cromlech, the . . . 556
Crompe, the rev. Pierrepoint, 61, 134
Cromwell, Thomas lord . 4, 5, 31
Crouch 524
Curteis, Jeremiah, esq. . . 5
———, George, esq. . 21, 123
Cuthred, king of Kent . . 277
Cutts, family of . . 116
Cutte, Sir John . . . 118

Dachurst, manor of . . 372
Dacre, lords . . 85, 397
D'Aeth, family of . . 294
———, Sir Narborough, 286, 293, 326
———, Sir Thomas . . 290

page

Dalison, family of . . 504
———, arms of . . 506
Dalyngrygge, family of . 170
Dane court, manor of . . 286
Dapifer, Eudo . 50, 77
Darell, family of . 179, 180
———, arms of . . 179
———, Nicholas . . 65
———, Henry . . . 171
———, esq. . . 169
———, John, esq. . 169, 234
———, George . . 178
Darrell, Sir Richard de . 30
Darnley, lord . . . 340
———, earl of . 383, 449
Dashwood, Sir James . . 415
———, Francis . . 515
Davington, nunnery of . . 125
Davis, Sir John Bremer . 255
Day, Thomas, last prior of Leeds 99
Dean court, manor of . . 158
Deedes, Julius . . . 32
Dekewer, John, esq. . . 303
Delaune, family of . . 125
Dencrouch, Highland, and Prigles, manors of . . 337
Dene, William de . 43, 137
——, Thomas de . 137, 138
——, Ralph de . . . 230
Denn court . . . 316
Dering, family of, 65, 174, 184, 185
———, armorial bearings of, 65, 187
———, Edward, esq. . . 68
———, Sir Edward, 115, 120, 188, 189, 191
———, John, esq. . 4, 301
———, of, Surrenden . 65
———, Thurlow John . . 168
———, Richard, esq. . . 189
———, Sir Richard . . 459
———, Christopher . . 168
Debouverie, Sir Christopher, 16, 19, 27
Despencer, le lord, 22, 328, 355, 461, 489, 494
Detling 662
———, family of . . 663
———, church of . . 664
Devereux, earl of Essex . 417
Dewe, William, esq. . . 235
Digge's court, manor of . 159
———, eminent family of . ib.
Ditton, parish of . . . 577
——— church . . . 581
——— place . . . ib.

page

Donnett, John, esq. . . 86
Dorchester, countess of . 4
Dorset, earl of . . . 334
Downe court, manor of . 67
Drake, Sir William . 16, 22, 27
Druidical circle, the, at Addington 556
Dryland, James, esq. . . 59
Dune, Hamo de la, family of . 67
Dunks, estate of . . . 127
———, family of . . 255
Duppa, Sir Thomas . . 86
———, Baldwin, esq. . . ib.
———, Duppa Baldwin, esq. . 87
———, arms of . . 86
———s, house of Mr. . . 80
Durrant, Robert . . 448
Dygges, John . . . 135
———, esq. . . 131
———, Christopher . . 135
Dyke, Dixon John . . 390

East Barming . . . 678
———, church of . 682
East court, manor of . . 664
East Farleigh . . . 671
———, church of . 677
East lane, manor of . . 641
East Lenham, parsonage of . 63
East Malling . . . 602
———, church of . . 606
Eastmere, manor of . . 461
East Shelve, estate of . . 64
———, manor of . . 66
—— Sutton . . . 29
———,church of, and monuments in . . . 33
Eastry, hundred of . . 260
———, parish of . . 296
——, manor of . . 299
——, church of . . 306
——, Henry de, monk of . 298
Eastwood common, hamlet of . 42
Eccles, manor of . . . 565
Egbert, king of Kent, legend of 299
Egerton, parish of . . 174
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 176
Eleanor, queen of Edward I. . 197
Elmington, manor of . . 278
Elmstone, Mr. Stephen . 245
Elnothington, manor of . 80
———, William de . 82
Ely, family of . . . 112
——, arms of . . . ib.

	page
Engerherst, ancient family of	194
Etheling, Ethelstan	80
Eu, William of	36
Evering Acre, manor of	188
Eversley, manor of	171
———, Brian de	172
Evesham, battle of	25
Ewehurst, East and West, manors of	448
Eythorne, hundred of	1
———, parish of	275
———, Upper and Lower	ib.
———, church of, and monuments in	279
Fairfax, Robert	82
———, hon. Robert	96, 102
———, second lord Ferdinando	95
———, Thomas lord	76, 83, ib.
———, lord	96
———, general, attacked Maidstone	629
———, doctor	104
———, Denny Martin	102
Fairlawn	534
Falkland, lord	353
Fane, family of	512
Fane, or Vane, family of	544
———————, armorial bearings of	545
Fane, George	488
———, Mildmay	509
Fant, hamlet of	625
Faversham, abbey of	125
Fector, family of	276
———————— mansion of	ib.
———, Minet, esq.	264
Fernor, Sir Henry	246
Filmer, family of	29, 32
———, Sir Edward	31, 40, 131
———————, Beversham	ib.
———, Edward, esq.	ib.
———, Reynold	ib.
———, Richard	127
Finchcocks, seat of	208
———————, family of	ib.
Fish hall, district of	352
Fitz Adam, Simon	282
Fitzalan, earl Arundel	26
———————, Simon	58
Fitzbernard, John	262
Fitzhamon, Robert	77
Fitz Osbert, Vitales	184
—— Urse, Randal	476
Fludd, Thomas	112
Fludd, Thomas, esq.	107, 111
———, Alabaster	112
Ford	531
Foote, J. esq.	13
Forbies, seat of	448
Foster, rev. William	494
Fowkes, manor of	518
Fowlers, mansion of	255
Freke, Ralph, esq.	117
Frene, Hugh de	179
Fremingham, family of	111, 201
Friars, the, at Aylesford	562
Frid farm, estate of	125
Friday and Sunday streets	30
Friggs and Newland green, hamlets of	174
Frinsted, parish of	132
———, church of, and monuments in	136
Frith, Hamon atte	125
Fromans, or Goodwis, manor of	350
Fullagar, Christopher	6
Furnese, family of	271
———, Sir Robert	68
———— Henry, bart.,	271, 324
Gage, Sir John	120
——, Viscount	214
Gallants, manor of	674
Gammon, William	7
Gardiner, Christopher, esq.	448
Gascoigne, William	116
Gatton, Robert de	43, 137
———, Hamo de	138
Geary, Sir William	487
Geneva manufactured at Maidstone	628
George III.	98
Gerund, family of	133
———, Nicholas de	ib.
Gig Nash, house and lands of	158
Gilbert, Sir Humphrey	122
Gipps, George, esq.	64
Glendower, Owen	27
Gloucester, earl of	77, 492
————————, Eleanor, duchess of	93
————————, countess of	347
Goddens, estate of	126
Golborne, Sir Nicholas	163
Goldwell, or Coldwell, estate of	351
Goodale, house of	174
Gore court, seat of, called Colyns	111
Gosfudde, Ros	530
Gostling, Mr.	65

page

Goudhurst, parish of . . 204
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 215
———, dreadful storm at . 216
Goulds, manor of . . 638
——— chantry . . ib.
Gousall, Sir John . . 43
Grange, the . . . 601
Grassley green, hamlet of . 42
Great and Little Comp, hamlets of 532
Great Buckland, manor of . 642
Greenshields, family of . . 316
Greenway court . . 82
Greenwaye, Gilbert . . 83
Gregory, St., priory of . 63
Grey, Lord Reginald . . 26
——, Reginald de . . 30
Grave, manor of . . 313
Grove Green, hamlet of . 652
Groves, family of . . 40
Grovehurst, estate of . . 241
———, family of . . 240
Guildford, earl of . 272, 288
———, arms of . 273
———, Henry . . 93
———, Earl of . 16
———, Sir Henry . . 97
Guldeford, family of . . 194
———, Sir Henry, knight of the garter . . . 31

Hadde, family of . . 20
———, Robert le . 133, 342
Hadenesham . . . 22
Hadlow, parish of . . 346
———, borough of . . ib.
——— place . . . 349
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 353
———, small manor of . 376
Halbrook, arms of . . 12
——— , family of . . ib.
Hales, Sir Edward, 16, 19, 21, 22, 27,
——, Edward, esq. . . 49
——, Humphrey . . 50
——, Sir Thomas Pym . 101
——, John . . . 111
——, arms of . . . ib.
Halfway Oke . . . 644
Halkwell, manor of . . 332
Hall place . . 126, 681
Hallborough, district of . 413
Haly garden, spring at . . 552
Ham, estate of . . . 53
——, mansion of . . ib.

page

Ham, parish of . . . 261
——, manor of . . . 262
——, church of, and monuments in 264
Hamilton, Elizabeth . 49, 57
———————, daughter of John lord Colepeper . 57
———, William, committed to the gate house . . ib.
———, John . 49, 58
Hamon, William Fitz . . 48
Hamptons, seat of . . 504
Hamwold, borough of . . 316
——— court . . 317
Hancorn, Richard . . 87
Handlo, Roger de . . 62
Harbilton, manor of . . 76
Harbroe, James, esq. . . 454
Harpur, Sir George . . 27
Harriedsham, parish of . . 70
———— place . . ib.
Harrietsham church, monuments in . . . 78
Harrison, Peter, esq. . . 171
Hartanger, manor of . . 282
Harvey, Daniel, esq. . . 186
———, family of . 276, 287
———, captain . . 304
———, Thomas, the rev. . 435
Hastings, John de . 26, 30
Hatch, Atte, family of . . 167
Hatton, Finch, esq. . . 157
———, George Finch . . 252
Haut, Edward . . . 10
——, William, esq. . . 12
Hawkhurst Lees, parish of . 251
——— place . . 255
——— Lees, church of, and monuments in . . 258
Hawkswell, family of . . 332
Hayes, James, esq. . . 210
Haysden, small manor of . 378
Hayward, Sir John . . 86
Haylewood, Thomas, a chronicle written by . . . 98
Heath, Nicholas . . 40
Hedcorne, village and town of . 2
——— , church of . . 7
Hendley, Walter, . . 111
———————, esq. . 4
———————, sir . . 329
———, Thomas, esq. . 111
———, John . . ib.
———, Bowyer . . 112
Hengham, Odomarus de . 148

page

Henhurst, estate of . . 497
Henley, Robert . . 20
Hennand, Thomas . . 7
Henniker, family of . . 201
———, Sir John . . ib.
Hepsbrooke, manor of . 432
Herbert, lord, of Cherbury . 493
Heronden, borough of . . 301
———, or Hardendon, district of . . . 302
———, family of, 302, 303
Herrys, Arthur, esq. . . 40
———, Sir William . . ib.
Herst, manor of . . 127
Herst woods . . 501
Hesse, Signor Jean de . 95
Heton, Martin, bishop of Ely . 32
Hever, parish of . . 390
———, church of, and monuments in . . 396
———, family of . . 391
———, William de . . 66
Hilden, manor of . . 373
Hildenburgh, districts of . 371
Hills, William, esq. . . 68
——, George and Edward . 134
Hoadley, estate of . . 127
Hookenbury bridge . . 35
Hodges, Thomas Hallet, esq. . 248
Hodleigh, manor of . . 230
Hoese, or Hussey, family of, 48, 158
Holands, manor of . . 447
Holborough, hamlet of . 582
Holbrook, manor of . . 12
Hollenden, district of . . 438
Hollingbourne, parish of . 79
———————, mansion at, of the period of queen Elizabeth ib.
———————— hill, seat and estate of . . . 86
———————, church of, and monuments in . . 87
Holmehill green, hamlet of . 70
Holme mill, manor of . . 77
Holy Trinity, priory of . 3
Honywood, family of 60, 159, 166
———————, Robert . 60, 64
———————————, esq. . 67
———————, Filmer, esq. 67, 174
Hooker, John . . . 245
———————, esq. . . 223
Hooper, Walter, esq. . . 101
Horne, family of . . 62
———, Samuel . . 112
Horsa 559

page

Horsemonden, parish of . 236
———————, manor of . 237
———————, church of, and monuments in . . 243
Hougham, family of . . 9
———————, Robert de . . ib.
Hovendon, Richard . . 39
Howel, Benjamin . . 112
Hubble, Benjamin, esq. . 13
Hucking, parish of . . 141
———————'s court, manor of . 142
———————, church of . . 143
Hulkes, John . . . 6
Humfreys, Sir Orlando . 394
Hunsdon, lord . . . 157
Huntington, manor of . . 486
Hunton, parish of . . 484
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 489
Hussey, family of . . 63
———, Edward, esq. . 213, 234
———, Peter, archdeacon . 5

Ibornden house, seat of . 247
Iden, Alexander . . 156
Ightham, parish of . . 535
————————, park of . . 542
————————, church of . . 542
————————, Roman military way through . . . 536
————————, intrenchment at . ib.
Inscription on a barn, of Preston hall, and disputes on . . 571
Isley, William, esq. . . 40
——, Sir Henry . . 111
Ivetigh, family of . . 20

Jack Straw, birthplace of . 614
Jenning's court, manor of . 494
John, Robert de St. . . 82
Jordan's hall . . . 639
Jumper, William, esq. 101, 147

Kearsley, family of . . 455
Kelly, William . . 303
Kelsham, estate of . . 5
Kempe, family of . . 31
———, Thomas . . 77
Kemsley, family of . . 151
Kennard's farm . . 498
Kent, John . . . 5
——, earl of . . . 184
Kentish ragstone . . 624
Kent's chantry . . 5
Keryell, Sir Thomas . . 146

page

Kilburne, Richard, esq. . 255
Kingsnoth, manor of . . 40
Kipping, John . . . 351
Kits Coty house . . 555
Knatchbull, family of . . 63
Knight, Mrs. . . . 159
Knole hill . . . 35
Knolton, parish of . . 290
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 293

Laddington, hamlet of . . 645
Lake, family of . . 206
Lambarde, William, esq. . 219
———, Multon, esq. 219, 220, 396
Lamberhurst, parish of . . 225
———, church of . 234
———, furnaces in, for melting iron ore . . 125
Lancaster, Richard, king at arms 30
———, John, duke of . 15
Lancup well, in Penshurst . 427
Lane, Thomas, esq. . . 222
Lanfranc, primate . 62, 80
Langley, parish of . . 14
———, park of . . ib.
———, heath of . . ib.
———, extraordinary spring at . . . . ib.
———, family of . . 291
Langton, David, esq. . . 256
Larkfield, Hundred of . 547
Le Despencer, lord . . 202
Lee, Thomas . . . 169
Leeds, parish of . . 89
———, anciently a fortress at . ib.
———, chapel of . . 90
———, priory of . 90, 98
———, canons of . . 98
——— castle, magnificent structure of . . . 97
———, the present fortress . 89
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 102
———, duke of . . 458
Leger, St., . . . 16
———, family of . . 36
——— legend of . ib.
——— vaults at Ulcomb . . . 41
———, John . . . 86
——— John, knighted at Carlaverack . . . 37
———, Viscount Doneraile . 38
———, Warham . . ib.

page

Leger, St., Sir Warham 73, 75, 82, 100, 189
———, Anthony . 6, 40, 102
———, interred at Ulcomb . . . 38
———, Sir Anthony 11, 94, 100
———, Arnold de . . 82
———, Thomas . 122, 172
———, married the duchess of Exeter . . 37
———, Ralph . 76, 83
———, sir . . 122
———, Edward . . 312
———, Juliana . . 27
———, armorial bearings of . 38
———, arms of . . 122
Leicester, earl of . . 421
Lenham, parish of . . 52
———, town of . . ib.
———, supposed a Roman station 54
———, anciently called Estlenham . . . 55
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 68
——— church, curious pulpit in 69
———, rivulet of . 79, 89, 104
———, family of . . 62
———, William de . . 486
Lennard, Samuel . . 116
———, Sampson . . 397
Lested, ancient seat of . 21
Lessenden, estate of . . 246
Levesey, Gabriel, esq. . . 86
Lewin, Alderman . . 114
———, Sir Justinian . . 123
———, William . . 124
———, James, esq. . . 332
Lewis Heath, manor of . 239
Leyborne, parish of . . 597
——— castle . . ib.
———, remains of . 601
———, church of . . 602
———, family of 14, 48, 140, 262, 466, 598
———, Juliana de 14, 26, 72, 74, 516
———, William de . 16, 121
———, Henry de . . 50
———, Roger de . 74, 91
Leyton, small manor of . 159
Lilly, hamlet of . . 465
Linton, parish of . . 668
——— place . . . ib.

page

Linton, church of . . 670
Lilsden, borough of . . 212
———, estate of . . 256
Little Buckland . . 644
—— Charlton . . . 30
————, parish of . 177
———— church, monuments in . . . 181
Littlefield, hundred of . . 500
Little Goudhurst, hamlet of . 205
—— Wrotham . . 527
Lodingford, manor of . . 494
Lomewood, manor of . . 473
Long beech wood, tract of woodland 160
Longsole free chapel of . 572
Loose, parish of . . 665
Lushington, James . . 127
Lowther, John . . . ib.
Lyghe, parish of . . 436
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 439
Lydde court, manor of . 324
Lydden, marshes of . . 323

Madam's court, manor of . 134
Magminot, family of 75, 114, 190
————, Gilbert . . 114
————'s and their descendants, the Sayes . . . 269
————, Robert . . 273
Magna villa, family of . . 618
Maidstone, hundred of . . 623
————, town and parish of, ib.
————, ancient names of . ib.
————, situation of . 624
————, state of, under Elizabeth . . . 625
————, paved and lighted ib.
————, town of . . ib.
————, the county or shire town 626
————, market of . 627
————, fairs at . . ib.
————, account of the family of 629
————, Ralph de . . 628
————, tremendous tempest at . . . 630
————, how anciently governed . . . 631
————, an ancient borough by prescription . . 632
———— manor, account of . 633
————, barracks at . 647

page

Maidstone, county gaol at . 647
———— gaol, riot at . 691
————, church at . . 648
————, free chapel at . 649
————, chronology of events relating to . . . 696
————, modern state described . . . 685
————, High street . ib.
———— new market . 686
————, Week street . 687
————, Sessions house, the new . . . . ib.
————, Faith street . ib.
————, Stone street . 688
————, King street . ib.
————, Clarendon place . 689
————, Union street 689, 690
————, methodist chapel . 690
————, Cary street . ib.
————, Wheeler street . ib.
————, Friends' meeting house . . . . ib.
————, Shire house, the . ib.
————, Holland terrace . ib.
————, Well there . ib.
————, curious phenomena at 691
Maison Dieu . . . 6
Malherb, family of . . 43
Malling abbey . . . 607
Malmains, manor of . . 187
————, family of 76, 188, 269, 278, 313
Maney, family of . . 76
Mann, Galfridus . . 78
————, esq. . 47, 48
————, Sir Horace 7, 78, 175, 176, 209, 244
————, Horatio, esq. . . 47
Manners, George lord Roos . 37
Mantle, lady . . . 114
Maplesden, family of . . 199
Marden, hundred of . . 196
————, parish of . . ib.
————, church of . . 203
————, fair at . . . 197
Mares, John de . . . 130
Marley, manor of . . 77
Marsham, hon. and rev. Jacob 118
Martel, Geoffry de . . 30
————, Adam de . . ib.
Martin, Denny . . . 17
————, Fairfax . . 76
————, esq. . . 96

	page
Martin, John	17
Marriott, Anne	212
———, doctor	239, 240
Mascalls, manor of, and the two appendant manors of Copgrove, and Chekeswell	220
———, Robert	20
May, John, esq.	12
Medway, navigation of, at Maidstone	628
Melton, Sir John	67
Meredith, arms of	100
———, Sir Roger	100, 102, 146
———, William	100
———, Richard	ib.
———, Susanna	101
Mereworth, parish of	509
———, castle of	ib.
———, description of	510
———, church of	518
———, family of	509
Mereweather, family of	277
Milgate, eminent seat of	106
Miller, Sir Borlase	507
Millhale, hamlet of	558
Milner, Joseph	6
Milner, Mrs.	491
Moat, or Cosins, manor of	401
——, the	540
—— hall, manor of	107
—— lands, estate of	222
Moile, Walter	76
———, Sir Thomas	157
Monchensie, family of	8
———, William de	9
———, Warine de	26
Monins, family of	270
———, John	ib.
Moncketon, John	224
———, manor of	200
———, hamlet of	125
———, church of, dilapidated	126
Monument of antiquity	557
Montacute, Agnes de	399
Montague, William	27
Montfort, Simon de, earl of Leicester	30
Montarges, nunnery of, in France	25
Moore, Sir Edward	27
———, Thomas	377
Morenis, Deringus, de	184
Morland, Alexander, esq.	230
Morrice, family of	267
Morrice, Captain	266
———, rev. James	267
Mote, the, near Maidstone	634
——, the grand review at, in 1799.	692
Mottenden, manor of	3
———, farm of	5
———, family of	ib.
Mowbray, family of	594 to 596
Munn, family of	108
Myllys, John	64
———, Edward, esq.	60
Nailbourn, the, at Addington	617
Narborough, Sir John	293
Nash, hamlet of	101
—— court, manor of	157
——, family of, Atte	158
Navarre, Joan of	93
Nealhampton, manor of	449
Nettlested, parish of	470
———, estate of	149
———, church of	473
Nevill, family of	589 to 593
———, Testa de	110
———, Sir Thomas	516
Nevison, family of	300
New Barne, mansion of	608
Newnham court	652, 656
Newcourt, Atte, family of	167
Newenden, family of	193
Newland, manor of	169
———, family of	ib.
New road, the, at Loose	691
New Shelve house, a curfew bell, preserved there	65
New work of Presteshelle, hospital of	645
Nicholas, Nicholas, esq.	40
Noel Baptist, viscount Camden	46
North and South courts	286
Northborne, manor of	265
Northwood, eminent family of	72, 151
———, Roger de	115, 130, 135
———, Sir Roger	114
———, John	132, 135
———, Sir John	115
———, lady, dreadful accident happened to	115
Norton place, manor of	19
———, Stephen, effigies of	ib.
Norwood, Simon	137
Norton, Richard	11

page

Odo, bishop of Bayeux, 115, 121, 158, 190, 290, 295
Ofham, parish of . . 612
———, church of . . 616
Old Shelne, estate of . . 64
———————, manor of . . 66
Olive, Mr. . . . 206
Ongley, Samuel . . 20
Otteridge, estate of . . 108
Otham, parish of . . 110
———, family of . . ib.
———, Peter de . . ib.
Otterden, parish of . . 121
——————— street . . ib.
——————— place . . ib.
———————, church of, and monuments in . . . 129
Ottringdon, family of . . 121
———————, Ralph de . . ib.
Ovenhelle, manor of . . 660
Outeridge, Thomas . . 218
Oxendon, Sir Henry . . 100
———————, George . , 101
———————, James . . 126
Oxenhoath, borough of . 506
Oxford, earl of . . . 496

Padlesworth, parish of . . 585
———————, church of . . 586
———————, Roger . . 454
Pakenham, John . 67, 124
Palmers, family of . . 583
———————, epitaph on . . ib.
Papillon, David, esq. . 85, 279
Paramor, Mrs. . . . 305
Park house, the . 642, 651
Parrocks, manor of . . 221
Pattenden, family of . . 212
———————, borough of . . ib.
Pattenson, Roger . . 247
Peckhams, manor of . . 352
———————, Great, or East, parish of 456
———————, Little, parish of . 501
———————, church of . 463, 508
———————, family of, 255, 529, 142
———————, Reginald . 10, 73
Pierce house, mansion of . 163
Pelham, Henry esq. . . 86
———, Sir John . . 93
Pembroke, Philippa, countess of 26
———————, earl of . . 158
Pembury, parish of . . 330
———————, church of, and monuments in . . . 337

Penenden heath . . 651
———————, grand assembly at 652
Penn court, manor and seat of . 85
Penshurst, parish of . . 413
——————— place, description of . 429
———————, church of, and monuments in . . . 435
———————, family of . . 415
Penehurste, Sir Stephen . 437
Pepenbury Magna and Pepenbury Parva, manors of . 330
Pepyr, Thomas . . 137
Percy, Sir Henry . 142, 405
Periton, manor of . . 159
Perots, family of . . 325
Perrin, William, esq. . . 482
Perry, Mr. . . . 426
Petley, Ralph Carter . . 350
Petman, Thomas . . 263
Pett, hamlet of . . . 144
———, family of . . ib.
Petts and New court, manors of 166
Peverel, Jeffry de . 130, 133, 341
Pevington parish united to that of Pluckley . . . 189
———————, manor of . . 190
———————, church of, converted into a stable . . . 191
———————, family of . . 190
———————, Sir William de . 75
Peyforer, family of . 48, 122, 172
———————, Fulk de . 130, 135
Peyton, Sir Thomas . . 290
Philipotts, estate of , . 374
Picot, Ralph, esq. . . 125
Pierre, Peter de la . . 314
Pimpe, eminent family of . 222, 675
———, Reginald de . 111, 202
———, Richard de . . 471
Pimpe's court . . . 675
Pincerna, Thomas . . 302
Pinke, Alured, esq. . . 125
Piper, John . . . 257
Pirifield, family of . . 189
Pirifields, or Ousden, manor of ib.
Plaxtool street . . . 524
———, district of . . 533
———, chapel of . . 534
Plot, family of . . . 149
Pluckley, parish of . . 182
———————, manor of . . 183
———————, church of, and monuments in . . . 191
———————, family of . . 183
Plumtree, John, esq. . . 282

	page
Polders, Great and Little,	315, 316
Polhill, Richard	375
———, David	377
Polley, John	507
Pomfret, family of	245
Port, William de	82
——, Hugh de	265, 281
Porter, John	353
Portmore, lord	4
Potts, Cuthbert, esq.	149
Powel, family of	11
———, Nathaniel	112
Poynings, Thomas de	64
———, Sir Edward	66, 219
———, Robert de	142
Pratt, John, esq.	232
Preston hall	558, 571
——, manor of	567
Pulteney, Sir John	437
——————— de	446
Punish, estate of	582
Purbeck, viscount	380
Putefoy, William	81
Purse, Robert	11
Pynde, family of	6
Quarry stone hills, West Peckham	501
Quested, Marc	86
———, Samuel	102
Quintin, the, at Ofham	613
Quyntin, Anceline	493
Ramhurst, ancient mansion of	438
Randolph, Herbert, esq.	246
Ranesby, manor of	412
Rasel, Richard	160
Raywood, land of	166
Read, Sir Robert	448
——, manor of	201
Redleafe house, manor of	434
Remkin, family of	461
Repton, Sir John	286
Rey, Roger	126
Richard, suffragan bishop of Dover	75
Richmond, duke of	127
Ringleton, manor of	318
Rings, manor of	549
Ripley court, manor of	156
——, family of	ib.
———, manor of	84
——, Richard de	ib.
Riseden, estate of	209
Reshfords, Adam de	6
Reshfords, manor of	6
River hall, seat of	247
Rivers, Sir John	433
Roberts, family of	207
———, John, esq.	223
Rochester, priory of	128
Rochford, earl of	361
———, viscount	377
Rockingham, earl of	172
Rokesle, family of	3, 237
——, Sir Richard	64
Rogers, Richard, esq.	123
Rolyngg, family of	189
Romedon place, ancient seat of	194
Roses, small manor of	104
Roting, manor of	189
Rowes place	567
Royden hall, seat of	458
Royton, manor of	58
———, free chapel of	59
——— chapel	53
———, Robert de	59
Rudston, Belknap	11
Runham place, mansion of	61
——, manor of	ib.
Rust hall, manor of	446
Ryarsh, parish of	594
——, church of	597
Sabbe, family of	209
Sackville, Christopher, esq.	4
Sackvyle, Richard	378
Saint Andrew, chapel of	654
Salario, John de	30
Salmons, estate of	432
Sandhurst, John de	285
Sandowne, manor of	325
Sands, or Sondes, Thomas	39
Sandwich, arms of	111
———, Nicholas de	ib.
Sandys, Sir Edward	274
Sansaver, Ralph	169
Savage, family of	12, 146
———, John	12
Sawbridge, John, esq.	4
———, Wanley	127
Say and Seale, lord	487
—, family of	588
Sayer, George	167, 194
Scoteni, Walter de	233
Scotney, manor of	ib.
Scrinkling, Sir William de	301
Seacocks heath	254
Sedley, Sir Charles	4
——————— William	ib.

page

Sellers, manor of . . 551
Septvans, family of . . 84
———, Sir William . . ib.
———, William . . 117
———, Roger . . ib.
Seyliard, Ralph de . . 396
Seyliards, estate of . . ib.
Sharpe, William, gent. . 158
Shales court . . . 640
Shaw, Sir John Gregory . 495
Sheldon, William, esq. . . 117
Shelley, Bysh, esq. . . 427
Shepway court . . . 638
Sherard, Sir Brownlow . . 424
Shelves, family of . . 66
———, Cobham . . . 67
———, three estates of . . 53
Shelving, John de . . 312
——— house . . 313
———, manor of . . 312
Shellingheld, Guido de . . 278
Shipborne, parish of . . 543
———, church of . . 546
Shiphurst, manor of . . 200
Shrinkling manor, chapel of, in ruins 301
———, small manor of . ib.
Shovey, Elizabeth . . 447
Shoreham, William de . . 23
Shovel Sir Cloudesley . . 293
Shurland, manor of . . 188
———, family of . . ib.
———, Robert de . . 22
Sidney, family of . . 420
———, Shelley John . 412, 449
———, Robert viscount Leslie 422
———, Percy Algernon . . 426
———, lady Frances . . 435
Siflestone, manor of . . 578
Skeppington, John, esq. . 373
Slipmill manor, appendage to the royal manor of Wye . . 251
Smarden, parish of . . 192
———, manor of . . 193
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 194
Smith, Sir Richard . . 117
Smith's hall, seat of . . 482
Smyth, Simon . . . 12
———, gent. . . 21
———, Customer . . 94
———, Richard, esq. . . ib.
Snodland, parish of . . 581
———, church of . . 585

page

Somerden, hundred of . . 390
Sonds Freeman, hanged for murder, and interred at Bersted church . . . 109
Sondes, lord . . . 172
———, Michael, esq. . . ib.
Soranks, manor of . . 521
Sore, manor of . . 533
Southborough, borough of . 377
South court, manor of . . 286
Southland, Thomas . . 6
Southolmenden, manor of . 6
Speldhurst, parish of . . 441
———, wells of . . 442
———, manor of . . 446
———, church of, destroyed by fire . . . 453
Spelmonden, seat of . . 239
Spencer, family of . . 22, 434
———, arms of . . 22
Spriners, manor of . . 240
Springhalls, family of . . 132
Stacey, Flint, esq. . . 146
Stafford, earl of . . 367
Stanhope, family of . . 46
———, armorial bearings of . . . ib.
———, created countess Chesterfield . . . ib.
———, Philip Dormer, earl Chesterfield . . . 47
———, Henry lord . . 115
———, lady Catherine . ib.
Standen, borough of . . 247
Stansted, parish of . . 520
———, church of . . 522
Stapleton, Sir Robert . . 33
Starkeys, manor of . . 550
Statenborough, hamlet of . 297
———, manor of . 304
———, family of . ib.
Stede, family of . . 73
———, armorial bearings of . . . . ib.
——, William . . . 132
———, esq. . 72, 77
—— street, mansion in . . 73
Stidulfe, Thomas . . 202
Stilley, small manor of . . 168
Stockbury, parish of . . 143
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 149
Stockshill and Studmore, manors of . . . 223

page

Stoneacre, manor of . . 112
Stonehouse, family of . . 107
Strangford, viscount . . 325
Stratford, archbishop . . 165
Streatfield, Richard . . 401
———, Henry . . 411
———, William . . 407
———, Mrs. . . 432
Stringer, John . . . 5
Stuart, Charles, duke of Richmond . . . 123
Style, Oliver . . . 134
———, esq. . . 61
——, Sir Thomas . . 467
——, Charles, bart. . . 469
Sherard, lady Mary . . 425
Surrenden, manor of . . 184
———, library of . . 3
———, John de . . 183
Sussex, earl of . . . 398
Sutton castle . . . 24
—— Hastings, manor of . 26
—— place, near Dover . . 28
—— Valence . . . ib.
Swanton court, manor of . 517
Sydenham, George . . 8
Symons, family of . . 203
Syndall, estate of . . 68

Tatlingbury, manor of . . 355
Tattersall, John . . 124
Taylor, Sir Thomas . . 7
——, John . . . 117
Taymell, ancient seat of . 205
Tenham, manor of . . 2
———, hundred of . . 3
Terry, Ralph . . . 317
Teston, parish of . . 474
——— house . . . 476
———, church of . . 479
Thanet, earl of . . 156
Thatchers, family of . . 135
Thomson, Thomas . . 35
Thomas, family of . . 126
——— at Towne . . 10
Thompson, Richard, esq. . 263
Thornicroft, Mrs. Anne . 125
Thurnham, parish of . . 113
——— castle, remains of . 118
———, site of . 119
———, Roman urns found at . . . ib.
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 119

page

Thurnham, Stephen de . . 213
Tilden, Richard . . 497
Tildens, Tubbins, and Brooke, manors of . . . 202
Tilghman, Abraham . . 134
———, esq. . 61
Tilmanstone, parish of . 284
——— and Craythorne, boroughs of . . . ib.
———, church of, and monuments in . . 289
———, Sir Roger de . 285
Tipperidge, manor of . . 337
Tongs, seat of . . . 255
Tottington, manor of . . 564
——— house . . 555
Tottesham hall, manor of . 482
Totesham, family of . . ib.
Town Malling, church of . 611
—— Sutton, parish of . . 24
———, or Sutton Valence ib.
———, church of . . 28
Tregozes, family of . . 50
Tremhatch, manor of . . 169
Trendhurst down, district of . 498
Triggs, seat of . . . 206
Trottesclive, parish of . 620
———, manor of . . 621
———, church of . . 622
Tudeley, parish of . . 327
Tunbridge, Lowy of . . 344
——— springs, seven in number . . . 444
———, parish of . . 356
———, town of . . 357
———, castle of . . 358
———, priory of . . 383
——— burnt to the ground . . . 384
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 387
———, wells of . . 443
Turner, Horsemonden William, esq. 73
———, William, esq. . . 77
Turnham, Robert de . . 114
Twert, Mr. Thomas . . 200
Twysden, family of . 211, 459
———, Sir Roger . 198, 473
——— Jarvis William . 461
———, Jarvis William . 467
———, borough of . . 211
Twyford, hundred of . . 456
Tyndale, William . . 138

page

Tyssen, Francis, esq. . . 101

Ulcomb, parish of . . 34
———, church of, constituted collegiate . . . 41
Updowne place . . 263
——— hamlet of . . 297
Usherwood, Mr. . . 242

Valence, family of . . 24
———, earls of Pembroke, family of . . . 25
———, Aymer de, earl of Pembroke . . . 26
Veles, manor of . . 584
Vane, family of . 220, 353
——, William viscount . 85
——, lord viscount . . 439
Valoigns, Robert and Walter de 110
———, William de . . ib.
———, Isabel de . . 111
Vanlore, Sir Peter . . 371
Vicecomes, Hamo . . 511
Vinters 652
———, mansion of . . 658
Vortiiner . . . 559

Wachenden, manor of . . 248
Wachlingstone, hundred of . 327
Waldershare, parish of . . 268
———, church of, and monuments in . . 274
——— house, pictures in 272
Waldegrave, family of . . 393
———, earl of . . 394
———, Sir Edward . 397
Waller, Richard, esq. . . 451
Walter's Folly, estate of . 20
Waldo, lady . . . 395
Wardens, estate of . . 469
———, family of . . 175
Walloons, manufactories established by, at Maidstone . 628
Warren, the, at Addington . 618
Whatman, James . . 468
Walsingham, Thomas . . 516
Waryn, Robert . . . 78
Walter street, hamlet of . 53
Watringbury, parish of . . 464
———, church of, and monuments in . . 469
———, manor of . 467
———, Gilbert de . 468

page

Waystrode, estate of . . 402
Weald, northern boundary of . 8
———, district of . . 35
Weeks, Mr. John . . 79
Weld, Atte William . . 200
Welle, Atte John . . 176
West, or Town Malling . 606
—— Barming . . . 683
———, church of . 684
—— court, manor of . . 664
—— Farborne, manor of . 75
—— Farleigh, parish of . 480
———, church of . 483
—— Kingsnoth, manor of . 189
—— Shelve, estate of . . 64
Westbury, manor of . . 468
Westwell, parish of . . 154
———, church of, and monuments in . . . 161
———, manor of . . 154
Westmoreland, earl of . 22, 513
Wickins, manor of . . 167
Wickenden, William . . 400
Wickham, name of . . 96
———, William of . . 92
Wiarton, borough of . . 12
———, house . . . 11
———, ancient family of . ib.
Widehurst, manor of . . 199
Wichling, parish of . . 130
Windsor, lord . . . 388
Wisperhawke, manor of . 7
Witherden, Thomas . . 194
Wilford, Thomas, esq. . . 57
Wilkes, Mrs. Mary . . 278
Willoughby, Sir Thomas . 409
——— of Eresby, lady . 106
Wilkins, David . . 96
Wimshurst, family of . . 228
Winchelsea, earls of . . 157
Wavering, hamlet of . . 657
———, street . . 652
Wingfield, manor of . . 532
Whatman, James . . 116
Wheler, Granville . . 127
———, esq. . . 124
———, Hastings . . 166
———, Thomas, esq. . . 123
White, John . . . 286
Whitfield house . . 247
———, family of . . ib.
White, Sir John . . 318
Whylingbroke, Thomas . 6
Whytsphawk, family of . 7
Wrensted, mansion house of . 133

	page
Wrotham, hundred of	520
——, parish of	523
——, village of	ib.
——, church of	534
——, conjectured to have been the Vagniacæ	525
—— place	527
——, coins found at	525
——, palace at	ib.
Woodnesborough, parish of	309
——, church of	321
——, manor of	311
Word, or Worthe, parish of	322
——, church of	326
Woodfolde, manor of	493
Woodgate, William, esq.	332
Woodgate, rev. Francis	401
Wood, Gilbert	388
Woldham, parish of	547
——, church of	551
Wolton, estate of	160
Wormsell, parish of	136
——, church of, and monuments in	138
——, an appendage to Boughton Malherbe	47
Wotton, family of	45
——, lord	115, 292
Wotton, lord of Boughton Malherbe	46
——, lords	199
——, Robert	102
——, Nicholas, esq.	43
——, Sir Nicholas	138
—— Edward	48, 78
—— Robert	44
——, Thomas	83
——, armorial bearings of	46
Wyatts, family of	654
——, Sir Thomas	10, 457
——, account of	576
——, his rebellion	45
Wyborne, family of	281
Yaldham	528
Yalding, parish of	489
——, town of	491
——, church of, and monuments in	498
Yelsted, manor of	146
York, John, esq.	31
Yoke of Hamons Atte Deane, manor of	145
Yoke's place, seat of	515
—— court	135

END OF VOL. III.

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